



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

No. 53

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 4, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MCGOVERN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, President, St. Luke Institute, Silver Spring, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, in this season, from what was lifeless in death, we now see the bursting forth of new life. Thus we enter a great time of hope. As we begin this day and the days ahead, may we open ourselves to You, drink freely of Your new life, and step forward in confidence and trust.

We thank You for these great gifts that You share with us. We trust You to lead us into tomorrow. And we pray this, as we pray all things, in Your holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Speaker pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 12:30 p.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5858. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a copy of draft legislation, "The Rural Housing Section 502 Guaranteed Loan Enhancements Act of 2007"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5859. A letter from the Deputy Principal Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report to Congress describing the activities of the Defense Production Act Title III Fund for Fiscal Year 2007, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. app. 2094; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5860. A letter from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a detailed boundary map for the Wildcat River in New Hampshire, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 6394; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5861. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's first biennial report on the implementation of the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program, pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Re-

authorization Act of 2006; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5862. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's 2007 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interests and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils and Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs), in compliance with Section 302(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5863. A letter from the Chair, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's Annual Report for FY 2007, pursuant to Public Law 99-661; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

5864. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's report on its support of basic research that can be considered high-risk or high-reward, pursuant to Public Law 110-69, section 1008(c); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

5865. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting an annual report of the Department's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for fiscal year 2007, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 345(b); jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2176. A bill to provide for and approve the settlement of certain land claims of the Bay Mills Indian Community; adversely (Rept. 110-541 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4115. A bill to provide for and approve the settlement of certain land claims of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; adversely (Rept. 110-542 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1328. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act; with an amendment (Rept. 110-564 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 1328. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than June 6, 2008.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 5713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the eligibility for certain fuels credits for fuel with insufficient nexus to the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PELOSI (for herself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. PENCE):

H. Con. Res. 322. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FARR, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. LEE, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr.

BLUMENAUER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REYES, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KIND, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GORDON, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HODES, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. STARK, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. BAIRD):

H. Res. 1081. A resolution recognizing the week of April 7, 2008, to April 13, 2008, as "National Public Health Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 460: Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 1359: Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 2268: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. CANNON, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.

H.R. 3654: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. GALLEGLY.

H.R. 3822: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H.R. 3825: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 5662: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. PICKERING.

H. Con. Res. 239: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H. Res. 795: Ms. BALDWIN.

H. Res. 952: Ms. BALDWIN and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 6, April 1, 2008, by Mr. BOUSTANY, Jr. on House Resolution 1025, was signed by the following Members: Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Jim Gerlach, Joseph R. Pitts, Devin Nunes, John Campbell, Rodney Alexander, Kenny Marchant, Adam H. Putnam, Robert J. Wittman, Virginia Foxx, Thelma D. Drake, Jo Bonner, Wayne T. Gilchrest, John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr., Paul Ryan, Mike Pence, K. Michael Conaway, Charles W. Dent, Todd Tiahrt, and Peter Hoekstra.

The following Member's name was withdrawn from the following discharge petition:

Petition 6 by Mr. BOUSTANY on House Resolution 1025: James T. Walsh.



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WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

No. 53

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the true light of life whose power no earthly force can challenge and whose reign no alien god can shake, open our hearts to what You have done for us, what You are doing even now, and what You promise for us in the future.

Draw near to our lawmakers as they work. Let the consciousness of Your presence fill their minds with peace. Use them today to defend those who are helpless and have lost all hope. Quicken their memories to recall the many times You have intervened to keep our Nation safe. Let the warmth of Your divine solace scatter the shadows of perplexity and doubt, as You encircle them with the wonder of Your love.

Lord, on this 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., bring unity to our land.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KEN SALAZAR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SALAZAR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to resume consideration of the housing legislation. There will be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the amendments. The Senate will proceed to vote in relation to the Voinovich amendment, to be followed by a vote in relation to the Landrieu amendment. I have been told those two amendments will be modified. I think they will be approved.

I would say to all Members of the Senate, I have spoken to the Republican leader. We have a cloture motion ready to file sometime this afternoon. If we can, we will come up with a consent agreement that we can have a time for final passage on this bill on Tuesday. Before doing that, we would have to know what amendments are going to be offered. We would have to have a finite list of amendments so we knew that. We will all be in communication with the Republican leader. We will either go cloture or we will go with a consent agreement to finish on Tuesday. There has been a good debate on this bill. There will be managers

available all afternoon to offer amendments that Senators want to offer. We will be available here on Monday. People can offer amendments. So there is plenty of time to offer amendments on this bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3221, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

Pending:

Dodd/Shelby amendment No. 4387, in the nature of a substitute.

Voinovich amendment No. 4406 (to amendment No. 4387), to protect families most vulnerable to foreclosure due to a sudden loss of income by extending the depreciation incentive to loss companies that have accumulated alternative minimum tax and research and development tax credits.

Landrieu modified amendment No. 4389 (to amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow use of amended income tax returns to take into account receipt of certain hurricane-related casualty loss grants by disallowing previously taken casualty loss deductions, and to waive the deadline on the construction of GO Zone

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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property which is eligible for bonus depreciation.

Sanders amendment No. 4401 (to amend amendment No. 4387), to establish a national consumer credit usury rate.

Cardin/Ensign amendment No. 4421 (to amend amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of a principal residence by a first-time home buyer.

AMENDMENT NO. 4406

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is on amendment No. 4406, offered by the Senator from Ohio, Mr. VOINOVICH, and the Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW.

The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 4406, AS MODIFIED

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify the amendment, and I now send the modification to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the end of title VI, insert the following:
SEC. ____ . ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT AND R AND D CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 168(k), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT AND R AND D CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a corporation which is an eligible taxpayer (within the meaning of paragraph (4)) for purposes of this subsection elects to have this paragraph apply—

“(i) no additional depreciation shall be allowed under paragraph (1) for any qualified property placed in service during any taxable year to which paragraph (1) would otherwise apply, and

“(ii) the limitations described in subparagraph (B) for such taxable year shall be increased by an aggregate amount not in excess of the bonus depreciation amount for such taxable year.

“(B) LIMITATIONS TO BE INCREASED.—The limitations described in this subparagraph are—

“(i) the limitation under section 38(c), and

“(ii) the limitation under section 53(c).

“(C) BONUS DEPRECIATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The bonus depreciation amount for any applicable taxable year is an amount equal to the product of 20 percent and the excess (if any) of—

“(I) the aggregate amount of depreciation which would be determined under this section for property placed in service during the taxable year if no election under this paragraph were made, over

“(II) the aggregate amount of depreciation allowable under this section for property placed in service during the taxable year.

In the case of property which is a passenger aircraft, the amount determined under subclause (I) shall be calculated without regard to the written binding contract limitation under paragraph (2)(A)(iii)(I).

“(ii) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The bonus depreciation amount for any applicable taxable year shall not exceed the applicable limitation under clause (iii), reduced (but not below zero) by the bonus depreciation amount for any preceding taxable year.

“(iii) APPLICABLE LIMITATION.—For purposes of clause (ii), the term ‘applicable limi-

tation’ means, with respect to any eligible taxpayer, the lesser of—

“(I) \$40,000,000, or

“(II) 10 percent of the sum of the amounts determined with respect to the eligible taxpayer under clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (D).

“(iv) AGGREGATION RULE.—All corporations which are treated as a single employer under section 52(a) shall be treated as 1 taxpayer for purposes of applying the limitation under this subparagraph and determining the applicable limitation under clause (iii).

“(D) ALLOCATION OF BONUS DEPRECIATION AMOUNTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), the taxpayer shall, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe, specify the portion (if any) of the bonus depreciation amount which is to be allocated to each of the limitations described in subparagraph (B).

“(ii) BUSINESS CREDIT LIMITATION.—The portion of the bonus depreciation amount allocated to the limitation described in subparagraph (B)(i) shall not exceed an amount equal to the portion of the credit allowable under section 38 for the taxable year which is allocable to business credit carryforwards to such taxable year which are—

“(I) from taxable years beginning before January 1, 2006, and

“(II) properly allocable (determined under the rules of section 38(d)) to the research credit determined under section 41(a).

“(iii) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX CREDIT LIMITATION.—The portion of the bonus depreciation amount allocated to the limitation described in subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not exceed an amount equal to the portion of the minimum tax credit allowable under section 53 for the taxable year which is allocable to the adjusted minimum tax imposed for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2006.

“(E) CREDIT REFUNDABLE.—Any aggregate increases in the credits allowed under section 38 or 53 by reason of this paragraph shall, for purposes of this title, be treated as a credit allowed to the taxpayer under subpart C of part IV of subchapter A.

“(F) OTHER RULES.—

“(i) ELECTION.—Any election under this paragraph (including any allocation under subparagraph (D)) may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(ii) DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING MINIMUM TAX.—Notwithstanding this paragraph, paragraph (2)(G) shall apply with respect to the deduction computed under this section (after application of this paragraph) with respect to property placed in service during any applicable taxable year.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2007, in taxable years ending after such date.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, the chairman of the Finance Committee has voiced concern about the original revenue loss associated with our amendment, which is bipartisan, with several members of the Finance Committee as sponsors. Senator STABENOW and I have worked very hard with Finance Committee staff and the Joint Committee on Taxation to bring the revenue estimate down. We managed to cut it by two-thirds to about \$1.3 billion over 10 years. I am pleased Senator BAUCUS finds it acceptable and now supports my amendment.

I would now like to turn the floor over to Senator STABENOW.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, let me say, part of this recovery is to support those businesses currently not making a profit but that want to continue to invest in America and American jobs. That is the piece we address in this amendment.

I thank Senator BAUCUS and his staff and Senator GRASSLEY for working very closely with us to get this to a point where it is supported by them.

Thank you.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, under the rules, technically someone on the minority side would manage the time, theoretically, in opposition to this amendment. I do not see anyone here. Not to be too formal about this, I will speak anyway.

I thank the Senator from Ohio, as well as the Senator from Michigan, for working out this amendment. Very basically, they have a very good point; namely, that many businesses, particularly in some parts of the country, are not able to take full advantage of bonus depreciation or so-called 179 expensing. That is because these are companies that have no profits. They do not have the ability to take advantage of these depreciation write-downs.

So they have come up with an amendment to address that problem. The first version was a bit expensive. We have worked very closely together with the Senators, as well as with the Joint Committee on Tax, to find the proper amount that makes some sense, and it has been tailored down to about \$1.3 billion. That is the modification which was sent to the desk by the Senator from Ohio. I think that is a proper amount. I think it is very helpful and ought to help these companies in these very stressed parts of our country that very much need the benefit of this provision. So I accept the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Montana for those words of support.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the

Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: The Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER).

Further, if present and voting the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) would have voted "yea." The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 91 Leg.]

YEAS—76

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Akaka | Ensign | Nelson (FL) |
| Alexander | Feingold | Nelson (NE) |
| Barrasso | Feinstein | Pryor |
| Baucus | Graham | Reed |
| Bayh | Grassley | Reid |
| Biden | Hagel | Roberts |
| Bingaman | Harkin | Salazar |
| Bond | Hutchinson | Sanders |
| Brown | Isakson | Schumer |
| Brownback | Johnson | Sessions |
| Burr | Kerry | Shelby |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Cardin | Kohl | Snowe |
| Carper | Kyl | Stabenow |
| Casey | Landrieu | Stevens |
| Chambliss | Leahy | Sununu |
| Coburn | Levin | Thune |
| Coleman | Lincoln | Vitter |
| Collins | Lugar | Voinovich |
| Craig | Martinez | Warner |
| Crapo | McCaskill | Webb |
| DeMint | McConnell | Whitehouse |
| Dodd | Menendez | Wicker |
| Dole | Mikulski | Wyden |
| Domenici | Murkowski | |
| Durbin | Murray | |

NAYS—2

Corker Gregg

NOT VOTING—22

| | | |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| Allard | Cornyn | Lieberman |
| Bennett | Dorgan | McCain |
| Boxer | Enzi | Obama |
| Bunning | Hatch | Rockefeller |
| Byrd | Inhofe | Specter |
| Clinton | Inouye | Tester |
| Cochran | Kennedy | |
| Conrad | Lautenberg | |

The amendment (No. 4406), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the Landrieu amendment No. 4389, as modified.

AMENDMENT NO. 4389, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment No. 4389 be further modified, the text of which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the further modification of the amendment?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as further modified, is as follows:

On page 82, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 605. USE OF AMENDED INCOME TAX RETURNS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RECEIPT OF CERTAIN HURRICANE-RELATED CASUALTY LOSS GRANTS BY DISALLOWING PREVIOUSLY TAKEN CASUALTY LOSS DEDUCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if a taxpayer claims a deduction for any taxable year with respect to a casualty loss to a personal residence (within the meaning of section 121 of such Code) resulting from Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita and in a subsequent taxable year receives a grant under Public Law 109-148, 109-234, or 110-116 as reimbursement for such loss from the State of Louisiana or the State of Mississippi, such taxpayer may elect to file an amended income tax return for the taxable year in which such deduction was allowed and disallow such deduction. If elected, such amended return must be filed not later than the due date for filing the tax return for the taxable year in which the taxpayer receives such reimbursement or the date that is 4 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later. Any increase in Federal income tax resulting from such disallowance if such amended return is filed—

(1) shall be subject to interest on the underpaid tax for one year at the underpayment rate determined under section 6621(a)(2) of such Code; and

(2) shall not be subject to any penalty under such Code.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of Senate enforcement, all provisions of this section are designated as emergency requirements and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 606. WAIVER OF DEADLINE ON CONSTRUCTION OF GO ZONE PROPERTY ELIGIBLE FOR BONUS DEPRECIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 1400N(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(B) without regard to ‘and before January 1, 2009’ in clause (i) thereof.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2007.

(c) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of Senate enforcement, all provisions of this section are designated as emergency requirements and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 607. TEMPORARY TAX RELIEF FOR KIOWA COUNTY, KANSAS AND SURROUNDING AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of or relating to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply, in addition to the areas described in such provisions, to an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA-1699-DR), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act) by reason of severe storms and tornados beginning on May 4, 2007, and determined by the President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such Act with respect to damages attributed to such storms and tornados:

(1) SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.—Section 1400S(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 25, 2005”.

(2) EXTENSION OF REPLACEMENT PERIOD FOR NONRECOGNITION OF GAIN.—Section 405 of the

Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, by substituting “on or after May 4, 2007, by reason of the May 4, 2007, storms and tornados” for “on or after August 25, 2005, by reason of Hurricane Katrina”.

(3) EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS AFFECTED BY MAY 4 STORMS AND TORNADOS.—Section 1400R(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(A) by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 28, 2005” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “January 1, 2008” for “January 1, 2006” both places it appears, and

(C) only with respect to eligible employers who employed an average of not more than 200 employees on business days during the taxable year before May 4, 2007.

(4) SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED ON OR AFTER MAY 5, 2007.—Section 1400N(d) of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance property” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone property” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “May 5, 2007” for “August 28, 2005” each place it appears,

(C) by substituting “December 31, 2008” for “December 31, 2007” in paragraph (2)(A)(v),

(D) by substituting “December 31, 2009” for “December 31, 2008” in paragraph (2)(A)(v),

(E) by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 27, 2005” in paragraph (3)(A),

(F) by substituting “January 1, 2009” for “January 1, 2008” in paragraph (3)(B), and

(G) determined without regard to paragraph (6) thereof.

(5) INCREASE IN EXPENSING UNDER SECTION 179.—Section 1400N(e) of such Code, by substituting “qualified section 179 Recovery Assistance property” for “qualified section 179 Gulf Opportunity Zone property” each place it appears.

(6) EXPENSING FOR CERTAIN DEMOLITION AND CLEAN-UP COSTS.—Section 1400N(f) of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance clean-up cost” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone clean-up cost” each place it appears, and

(B) by substituting “beginning on May 4, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2009” for “beginning on August 28, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2007” in paragraph (2) thereof.

(7) TREATMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY PROPERTY DISASTER LOSSES.—Section 1400N(o) of such Code.

(8) TREATMENT OF NET OPERATING LOSSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO STORM LOSSES.—Section 1400N(k) of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance loss” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone loss” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “after May 3, 2007, and before on January 1, 2010” for “after August 27, 2005, and before January 1, 2008” each place it appears,

(C) by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 28, 2005” in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)(I) thereof,

(D) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance property” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone property” in paragraph (2)(B)(iv) thereof, and

(E) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance casualty loss” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone casualty loss” each place it appears.

(9) TREATMENT OF REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING INCOME ELIGIBILITY FOR PURPOSES OF QUALIFIED RENTAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1400N(n) of such Code.

(10) SPECIAL RULES FOR USE OF RETIREMENT FUNDS.—Section 1400Q of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance distribution” for “qualified hurricane distribution” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “on or after May 4, 2007, and before January 1, 2009” for “on or

after August 25, 2005, and before January 1, 2007" in subsection (a)(4)(A)(i).

(C) by substituting "qualified storm distribution" for "qualified Katrina distribution" each place it appears.

(D) by substituting "after November 4, 2006, and before May 5, 2007" for "after February 28, 2005, and before August 29, 2005" in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii).

(E) by substituting "beginning on May 4, 2007, and ending on November 5, 2007" for "beginning on August 25, 2005, and ending on February 28, 2006" in subsection (b)(3)(A).

(F) by substituting "qualified storm individual" for "qualified Hurricane Katrina individual" each place it appears.

(G) by substituting "December 31, 2007" for "December 31, 2006" in subsection (c)(2)(A).

(H) by substituting "beginning on June 4, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2007" for "beginning on September 24, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2006" in subsection (c)(4)(A)(i).

(I) by substituting "May 4, 2007" for "August 25, 2005" in subsection (c)(4)(A)(ii), and

(J) by substituting "January 1, 2008" for "January 1, 2007" in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of Senate enforcement, all provisions of this section are designated as emergency requirements and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, the junior Senator from Mississippi wishes to speak on our amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Louisiana for yielding me an opportunity to speak. This is an example of how those in Government can work together to help citizens who have been disadvantaged by a storm, where Members can work together in a bipartisan manner.

The Senator from Louisiana will be able to explain briefly the base amendment she offered. I simply want to thank her for agreeing to incorporate two very important amendments into hers. One is with regard to the bonus depreciation piece of the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act, known in shorthand as the GO-Zone. Because of bureaucratic delays, and because of the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina, people who wish to take the opportunity of the GO-Zone bonus depreciation have not been able to commence construction. The Wicker-Cochran amendment, which the Senator has agreed to incorporate into her amendment, would move the commencement date of GO-Zone construction.

The Senator from Louisiana has also graciously agreed to add a Brownback-Roberts amendment that will help the small town of Greensburg, KS, which was completely devastated in a storm recently. I urge all Senators to vote in favor of this simple change in the date on bonus depreciation.

I thank the Senator from Louisiana. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I raise a point of order that this amendment violates section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, pursuant to section 204 of Senate Concur-

rent Resolution 21, I move to waive that section of the concurrent resolution for the purpose of the pending amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN: I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: The Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) would have voted "yea." The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 74, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Leg.]

YEAS—74

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Akaka | Ensign | Nelson (FL) |
| Alexander | Feingold | Nelson (NE) |
| Baucus | Feinstein | Pryor |
| Bayh | Graham | Reed |
| Biden | Grassley | Reid |
| Bingaman | Hagel | Roberts |
| Bond | Harkin | Salazar |
| Brown | Hutchison | Sanders |
| Brownback | Isakson | Schumer |
| Burr | Johnson | Sessions |
| Cantwell | Kerry | Shelby |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Carper | Kohl | Snowe |
| Casey | Landrieu | Stabenow |
| Chambliss | Leahy | Stevens |
| Coburn | Levin | Sununu |
| Cochran | Lincoln | Thune |
| Coleman | Lugar | Vitter |
| Collins | Martinez | Voinovich |
| Craig | McCaskill | Warner |
| Crapo | McConnell | Webb |
| Dodd | Menendez | Whitehouse |
| Dole | Mikulski | Wicker |
| Domenici | Murkowski | Wyden |
| Durbin | Murray | |

NAYS—5

| | | |
|----------|--------|-----|
| Barrasso | DeMint | Kyl |
| Corker | Gregg | |

NOT VOTING—21

| | | |
|---------|---------|-------------|
| Allard | Cornyn | Lautenberg |
| Bennett | Dorgan | Lieberman |
| Boxer | Enzi | McCain |
| Bunning | Hatch | Obama |
| Byrd | Inhofe | Rockefeller |
| Clinton | Inouye | Specter |
| Conrad | Kennedy | Tester |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 74, the nays are 5. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to and the point of order is moot.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 4389), as further modified, was agreed to.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator DODD is going to be here, as will Senator BAUCUS, for offering of amendments. It is my understanding there are a number of tax related amendments that will be offered. Senator ENSIGN, Senator BILL NELSON, and Senator SNOWE have amendments.

For the benefit of Members, I wish to lay out generally what the plan is for next week. We will have no votes on Monday. That has been long scheduled. The Republican leader and I will work out what is going to happen on Tuesday. There are a couple alternatives. I discussed it briefly this morning.

I have a cloture motion waiting to file. Whether we do that or not, I will consult with my distinguished colleague, the Senator from Kentucky. What we might try to work out is having a finite list of amendments and have a time certain to complete work on this bill on Tuesday sometime.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if the majority leader will yield for an observation, I agree it would be appropriate filing a cloture motion. We can vitiate it later if we get there without that. I think it would help us get to the end of the trail, a point at which both of us would like to finish up, which will hopefully be Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate my friend's advice and will follow it.

I will also say this about next week. We can work Tuesday, and we can work Wednesday. Thursday the Pope will be in Washington, DC, and will say a mass. It is my understanding that mass will begin at 10 a.m. There will be a lot of traffic problems. There are a huge number of people expected to be at that mass, so we will have a window so Members and staff who wish to attend the mass will be able to do so. It will not be for all day, but I assume we will all work with those who know the

schedule better. We will have a window on Thursday, but we will have to work into Thursday afternoon and Thursday evening on other issues.

On Friday, there is a long-scheduled Senate Democratic retreat in Richmond, VA.

That is the general view of next week.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. LEAHY. I believe the mass is the Thursday after.

Mr. REID. It is not next week?

Mr. LEAHY. No. We are trying to make life easy. The Pope would like to make life easier for the majority leader.

Mr. REID. I had a couple of my Catholic friends come to me today and say: We have to have some time off. That is a week from Thursday. That is like an eternity in the Senate. Everybody is going to have to work all day Thursday, I hate to break the bad news to you. I guess I have said enough.

We will work with everyone's schedule so it is compatible with the Pope's a week from Thursday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, a number of Senators wish to speak and offer amendments. I ask unanimous consent that Senator ENSIGN be recognized for 5 minutes and then I be allowed to follow him; following him, Senator NELSON of Florida recognized for 5 minutes and I be allowed to follow him. We will lock those two in at this point. There may be others throughout the day.

Mr. COLEMAN. Reserving the right to object, I would like to be added as a cosponsor with Senator NELSON on his amendment. I ask that I be recognized for 5 minutes after Senator NELSON.

Mr. BAUCUS. That is on the Bill Nelson of Florida amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Reserving the right to object, I would like to ask the Senator from Montana if I could be recognized following the Senator from Nevada to offer an amendment to his amendment.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Reserving the right to object, could I be added after the Senator from Tennessee?

Mr. ENSIGN. To clarify, the Senator from Tennessee objects to the wind power part, and he wants to offer a second-degree amendment. He wants to make sure he is in order for a second-degree amendment to our amendment is all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Reserving the right to object, may I follow after that debate is completed?

Mr. BAUCUS. A better procedure is not to line up second degrees because nobody's second-degree rights are ever denied anyway on any amendment. That is automatic. For example, when Senator ENSIGN's amendment is of-

fered, if somebody wants to offer a second-degree amendment, that is certainly in order. The unanimous consent request would not preclude someone from offering a second-degree amendment. The Senator always has that right.

I don't want to get in the position of getting UCs for one second-degree amendment or another at this point, especially when, I say to my good friend from Tennessee, it is not necessary in any way. He will be fully protected when the amendment of the Senator from Nevada is up. He is protected to offer a second degree.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator. I wish to make sure I am fully protected and another Senator does not get ahead of me in terms of a second-degree amendment. Is that the assurance I am receiving from the Senator?

Mr. BAUCUS. That is absolutely this Senator's understanding, and I will protect that Senator's right as best I can.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a unanimous consent request pending.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Reserving the right to object, may I inquire of whoever will be managing the next amendment how long they will go forward with the discussion on this amendment? I would like to be added to the list after it is all over for 5 minutes to present a wholly different amendment. It does not have anything to do with this issue.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, so the Senator from Louisiana does not have an amendment?

Ms. LANDRIEU. I do have an amendment that I would like to offer on a completely different subject and sometime today.

Mr. BAUCUS. Not to the housing bill?

Ms. LANDRIEU. To the housing bill.

Mr. BAUCUS. Later on today.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Later on today.

Mr. DODD. I am going to be here all afternoon. So anyone who wants to offer amendments, I will be here to consider any amendments and debate anytime they want. We are not going anywhere. We have no more votes. We certainly are offering amendments.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I am trying to get a timeframe as to when I might be able to do that so I can plan my day.

Mr. BAUCUS. As far as this Senator is concerned, it is fine if this Senator is added.

Mr. ENSIGN. To add a clarification, we were only going to talk for 5 minutes, 5 minutes, and the next people 5 minutes, 5 minutes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. So I will be in line to offer an amendment at 10:30 a.m.?

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the offering of the three amendments, the Senator from Louisiana be recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Be recognized for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Reserving the right to object, may I say to the Senator from Montana, I would like to follow the Senator from Nevada for 5 minutes for the purpose of offering a second-degree amendment, if he can show me that courtesy.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, as far as I am concerned, that is perfectly OK with me.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the initial request of the Senator from Montana? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nevada.

AMENDMENT NO. 4419 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4387

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the limited continuation of clean energy production incentives and incentives to improve energy efficiency in order to prevent a downturn in these sectors that would result from a lapse in the tax law.)

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask that the pending amendment be set aside and I be allowed to call up amendment No. 4419.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. ENSIGN], for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. CANTWELL, proposes an amendment numbered 4419 to amendment No. 4387.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators CANTWELL and THUNE be added as cosponsors to the amendment. I am sure there will be others who will want to be added as cosponsors to this amendment. Since Senator CANTWELL and I introduced the freestanding bill yesterday, we already have 28 of our colleagues who have become cosponsors. Additionally, we expect many more of our colleagues will be added as cosponsors to the bill and will also want to be added as cosponsors to this amendment.

Briefly, I wish to share my time with the Senator from Washington, who has shown great leadership on this issue. The amendment we are proposing deals with renewables. We know this country has an energy problem. We are too dependent on foreign sources of energy. Too much of our energy byproducts are polluting the environment, and there are concerns about climate change around the world. And this amendment addresses both of those concerns, as well as being a stimulant to the economy. There are over 100,000 jobs that we protected with this amendment. We are talking about solar power, geothermal, wind energy and biomass.

There are many different renewables that are going to help within this amendment. Additionally, at a time when our country is at war in places where we are spending over \$100 per barrel of oil, we are spending hundreds of billions of dollars from our economy to support people who are not necessarily friendly to the United States. It is very important that we as a Senate, act now on this amendment in order to help the United States become less dependent on foreign sources of energy as well as clean up our environment. It is a national security concern, it is an economic concern, and it is an environmental concern.

I am very pleased to introduce this amendment today so we can vote on it next week. I think it is very critical that this be part of the package, and that is why it needs to be done as soon as possible. Some may ask why there is such an urgency. Well, because a lot of this type of energy production takes a long time to develop. We do not have a lot of time to set the financing of these projects. We have been told by a lot of industries that if there isn't stability, a lot of these industries are going to go away. We need to be encouraging renewable energy development.

Mr. President, I yield a couple of minutes to my friend, the Senator from Washington, who is the lead sponsor of the bill we introduced yesterday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. I thank the Senator from Nevada for yielding me some of his time.

This has been a big priority on this side of the aisle, to get clean energy tax credits so we can continue to stimulate investment in wind and solar and energy efficiency, and a variety of others—fuel cells, biomass, geothermal, and the list goes on and on. This is the fourth time we have tried to get to this legislation. Three other times we have come within one vote, so we are here today with more bipartisan support for a proposed solution.

My colleagues and the chairman of the Finance Committee have worked very hard on this legislation in general, on the concept of trying to push forward these tax credits, but we are at a critical point. In fact, I have said to my colleagues that Rome is burning; that is, we are at the precipice now of projects actually getting canceled. Having been in business, I know what it is like to have your first quarter earnings report and then have to show some forward advancement to your investors about your projects. That is where we are. And because we aren't giving certainty in the Tax Code to these investors, they are going to start canceling projects.

So we cannot wait another month, another 2 months to get about this tax. If we want to give certainty to the markets to continue to invest in alternative energy to take some of the pressure off of the rising cost of energy, now is the time to act. So I hope my

colleagues will think about the bipartisan nature of the amendment. We have failed three times and have come one vote short to try to help our own economies in our States and in our country by saving this investment cycle. Give the predictability so we can keep 100,000 jobs working, so we can get renewable energy produced and invested in during 2008, and so we can have the production of CO₂-reducing energy supply and get that going now.

I could say to my colleagues that we are almost at a point where the United States is so far behind what other countries are doing that we are not even going to be able to claim we are leading in this area if we do not get about the task. So if the votes are here, let's start voting to say renewable energy and its ability to stimulate the economy is a priority.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, how much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 5 minutes.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I will yield the floor after one brief comment to once again thank the great leadership of the Senator from Washington. I look forward to all of our colleagues joining us on this vote in a bipartisan way next week.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

AMENDMENT NO. 4429 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4419

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. ALEXANDER] proposes an amendment numbered 4429 to amendment No. 4419.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment not be read further.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a longer extension of the renewable energy production tax credit and to encourage all emerging renewable sources of electricity, and for other purposes)

Beginning on page 2, line 14, strike all through page 6, line 13, and insert the following:

SEC. 811. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION OF CREDIT.—Each of the following provisions of section 45(d) (relating to qualified facilities) is amended by striking “January 1, 2009” and inserting “January 1, 2011”:

- (1) Paragraph (1).
- (2) Clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(A).
- (3) Clauses (i)(I) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A).
- (4) Paragraph (4).
- (5) Paragraph (5).
- (6) Paragraph (6).
- (7) Paragraph (7).
- (8) Paragraph (8).
- (9) Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (9).

(b) PRODUCTION CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM MARINE RENEWABLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 45(c) (relating to resources) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(I) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.”

(2) MARINE RENEWABLES.—Subsection (c) of section 45 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy’ means energy derived from—

“(i) waves, tides, and currents in oceans, estuaries, and tidal areas,

“(ii) free flowing water in rivers, lakes, and streams,

“(iii) free flowing water in an irrigation system, canal, or other man-made channel, including projects that utilize nonmechanical structures to accelerate the flow of water for electric power production purposes, or

“(iv) differentials in ocean temperature (ocean thermal energy conversion).

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Such term shall not include any energy which is derived from any source which utilizes a dam, diversionary structure (except as provided in subparagraph (A)(iii)), or impoundment for electric power production purposes.”

(3) DEFINITION OF FACILITY.—Subsection (d) of section 45 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES.—In the case of a facility producing electricity from marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy, the term ‘qualified facility’ means any facility owned by the taxpayer—

“(A) which has a nameplate capacity rating of at least 150 kilowatts, and

“(B) which is originally placed in service on or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and before January 1, 2011.”

(4) CREDIT RATE.—Subparagraph (A) of section 45(b)(4) is amended by striking “or (9)” and inserting “(9), or (11)”.

(5) COORDINATION WITH SMALL IRRIGATION POWER.—Paragraph (5) of section 45(d), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by striking “January 1, 2011” and inserting “the date of the enactment of paragraph (11)”.

(c) SALES OF ELECTRICITY TO REGULATED PUBLIC UTILITIES TREATED AS SALES TO UNRELATED PERSONS.—Section 45(e)(4) (relating to related persons) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “A taxpayer shall be treated as selling electricity to an unrelated person if such electricity is sold to a regulated public utility (as defined in section 7701(a)(33)).”

(e) REDUCTION OF CREDIT FOR WIND ENERGY.—Section 45(b)(4)(A) is amended by inserting “(1),” before “(3)”.

(f) TRASH FACILITY CLARIFICATION.—Paragraph (7) of section 45(d) is amended—

(1) by striking “facility which burns” and inserting “facility (other than a facility described in paragraph (6)) which uses”, and

(2) by striking “COMBUSTION”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) EXTENSION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to property originally placed in service after December 31, 2008.

(2) MODIFICATIONS.—The amendments made by subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) shall apply to electricity produced and sold after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

(3) TRASH FACILITY CLARIFICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (f) shall

apply to electricity produced and sold before, on, or after December 31, 2007.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I believe the amendment I offer on behalf of the Senator from Arizona, Mr. KYL, and myself would improve the amendment offered by the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from Washington.

As I listened to them talking, their concern is for emerging technologies, for businesses that are trying to develop emerging technologies to have time to plan, and so they offer a 1-year extension of the production tax credit, which gives a 1 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit to most emerging technologies producing electricity for commercial sales. Some renewable electricity sources receive a larger 2 cents per kilowatt hour credit. I would propose, along with Senator KYL, that we make it a 2-year extension for emerging technologies.

The way we would pay for that so it would not be any more expensive than the proposal they have offered is to do with wind what we have already done with solar: take it off the list of 2-cent-per-kilowatt-hour technologies and put it on the 1-cent list. In other words, we would be creating a 2-year extension of the production tax credit for renewable technologies. We would be treating wind the same way we treat open-loop biomass, small irrigation power, landfill gas, trash combustion, qualified hydropower, and wave and tidal facilities. They all would receive 1 cent per kilowatt hour.

I think it makes much more common sense today, if we want to encourage emerging technologies, to treat them the same, especially because wind has had a preferential treatment since 1992. What has happened, Mr. President, is wind has gobbled up most of the money that has been spent through the production tax credit, and very little has gone to any of the other technologies. The taxpayer has spent an enormous amount of money to build large wind turbines in this country.

According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, we are committed to spending another \$11.5 billion over the next 10 years for wind power alone, even though wind power produces less than 1 percent of all of our electricity and less than 3 percent of our clean electricity. Nuclear power produces nearly 70 percent of our clean electricity; that is, no nitrogen, no sulfur, no mercury, and no carbon for those concerned about climate change. If we were subsidizing nuclear power at the same rate we subsidize wind power for clean energy, we would be spending \$300 billion or \$400 billion over the next 10 years for nuclear power. So wind has been gobbling up the available money for renewable energies, and making it difficult to identify appropriate offsets to pay for long-term extensions of this renewable electricity tax credit.

We have spent an extraordinary amount of money on wind. Wind has already proven that where the wind

blows, it works. It is competitive. And where it does not blow, it is not competitive. In the Southeastern United States, for example, there is one wind farm. Because of the generous wind subsidies, this wind farm on the top of a lovely mountain, Buffalo Mountain in Tennessee, last August, in the middle of a drought when we were all sweating and turning up our air conditioners, was operating 10 percent of the time. It makes no sense to pay big subsidies to people in Chicago to build wind farms in places where the wind doesn't blow. So what we are suggesting, Senator KYL and I, is to let us take the available money and let us extend for 2 years the production tax credit, and let us let some of it go to open-loop biomass, more to small irrigation power, more to landfill gas and trash combustion, and qualified hydropower and wave and tidal power, and it would also go for wind. It means the wind part of the tax credit would be for 2 years and wind would still receive about \$1 billion of the \$6 billion or \$7 billion that the Ensign-Cantwell amendment would consume.

So I ask my friends to seriously consider this not as an unfriendly amendment to renewable energy but as a friendly amendment. I have met with a lot of people who say we desperately need some certainty in business. Well, 2 years is twice as much certainty as 1 year, and there is no reason at this stage of development of energy why wind, which is well proven where the wind blows, and which has been subsidized so heavily since 1992, should continue to be subsidized at the expense of certainty in our tax policy and at the expense of all of the other renewable energies.

So in summary, Mr. President—and I will have more to say about this next week—we believe the Alexander-Kyl amendment would improve the Ensign-Cantwell amendment by doubling the time the production tax credit is available to emerging renewable technologies. And the way we would pay for it is to treat wind the same way we treat open-loop biomass, small irrigation power, landfill gas, trash combustion, qualified hydropower, and wave and tidal power. They would be treated the same, and they would be given a chance over 2 years to flourish rather than 1 year.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to address the underlying Ensign amendment. I think most Members of this body believe very strongly we need to be much more self-sufficient in the production of energy. We are way too reliant on OPEC. We have made several attempts in this Congress in the last several months to try to pass tax incentive provisions to accomplish that objective. They have not been successful, for various reasons. Some because they are paid for, and people don't like

to pay for this, and others because it was not paid for.

For example, last February we passed an energy tax incentive package very similar to the Ensign package, which was not paid for, and that did not survive. So we are in a difficult position. I agree with the impetus of Senator CANTWELL and Senator ENSIGN, but we also know the other body is probably not as friendly toward passing this because it is not paid for—not as friendly as this body.

We hope the President signs this package. I am not terribly sanguine that will happen, but nevertheless let's at least try to see if the other body will in fact adopt it. This is a housing bill; it is not an energy bill. We want to get a housing bill passed very quickly, and now that we have an energy provision in it, that is a bit problematic as to whether we are going to get the housing bill passed as it is, especially when the energy provisions are not paid for.

The Finance Committee has other options to pass this package. All Senators on the committee know what we have been working on. I am committed to getting these tax incentives passed this year. They are so important, so vitally important, for reasons everyone has mentioned. And, in fact, I am even more worried about it than probably some other Senators. I am as worried as the Senator from Washington about getting this passed. So I am committed to finding a way. If this approach is not successful, I am committed to finding a way, to finding a successful approach so these energy provisions are in fact enacted into law this year.

Mr. DODD. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BAUCUS. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I underscore the point the Senator from Montana has just made, and I say this in the same spirit in which he has expressed his remarks. This is a housing bill. We have 8,000 people a day in foreclosure—8,000. Just as we started this debate, 24,000 of our fellow citizens have lost their homes—24,000 people lost their homes.

Now, I agree energy independence is critically important. But this isn't a Christmas tree. There are ways of doing these energy bills in other matters. I was under the impression we wanted to get a housing bill out that could make a difference in people's lives.

Why are we taking up matters that run the risk of tying this up for weeks on end in a conference with the House on matters they disagree with, that are not paid for, that may get a Presidential veto, and as a result we watch even more people lose their homes? It is a housing bill. It is a housing bill.

So with all due respect to the authors of this amendment, I am going to oppose every one of them from here on out so we can get this bill done. We have more to do. This is not an all-inclusive bill. A lot more needs to be done. We are, frankly, not doing

enough for people in foreclosure, in my view, and I have made that speech for a year now on this matter. We have finally gotten to a point where we have come together in a bipartisan fashion to deal with housing, and all of a sudden I find myself dealing with every other issue in creation because we haven't had bills that have moved along for whatever reason.

But we shouldn't make people who are losing their homes, with our economy suffering, pay the price because we haven't dealt with these other issues. This is housing. The Senator from Montana is absolutely correct, and I intend to stand with him. We may lose. I hope we don't because we run the risk of having this one effort to make a difference on housing fall apart.

With all due respect to the authors of this legislation, and I agree with all of them on the substance, this is not the place and time for this issue. We need to deal with housing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 4423 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4387

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, because this is the Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Act, just what the chairman of the Banking Committee has brought up, let's remind ourselves what is the underlying bill. The State of this Senator has the second highest number of foreclosures in the country. That is why I ask consent we set aside the pending amendment.

I call up amendment No. 4423.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. NELSON], for himself and Mr. COLEMAN, proposes an amendment No. 4423 to amendment 4387.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for the penalty-free use of retirement funds to provide foreclosure recovery relief for individuals with mortgages on their principal residences)

At the end of title VI, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PENALTY-FREE WITHDRAWALS FROM RETIREMENT PLANS FOR FORECLOSURE RECOVERY RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MORTGAGES ON THEIR PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 72(t) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not apply to any qualified foreclosure recovery distribution.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the aggregate amount of distributions received by an individual which may be treated as qualified foreclosure recovery distributions for any taxable year shall not exceed the lesser of—

(A) the individual's qualified mortgage expenditures for the taxable year, or

(B) the excess (if any) of—

(i) \$25,000, over

(ii) the aggregate amounts treated as qualified foreclosure recovery distributions

received by such individual for all prior taxable years.

(2) TREATMENT OF PLAN DISTRIBUTIONS.—If a distribution to an individual would (without regard to paragraph (1)) be a qualified foreclosure recovery distribution, a plan shall not be treated as violating any requirement of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 merely because the plan treats such distribution as a qualified foreclosure recovery distribution, unless the aggregate amount of such distributions from all plans maintained by the employer (and any member of any controlled group which includes the employer) to such individual exceeds \$25,000.

(3) CONTROLLED GROUP.—For purposes of paragraph (2), the term "controlled group" means any group treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of such Code.

(c) AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED MAY BE REPAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who receives a qualified foreclosure recovery distribution may, at any time during the 3-year period beginning on the day after the date on which such distribution was received, make one or more contributions in an aggregate amount not to exceed the amount of such distribution to an eligible retirement plan of which such individual is a beneficiary and to which a rollover contribution of such distribution could be made under section 402(c), 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), 408(d)(3), or 457(e)(16) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as the case may be.

(2) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS OF DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLANS OTHER THAN IRAS.—For purposes of such Code, if a contribution is made pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to a qualified foreclosure recovery distribution from an eligible retirement plan other than an individual retirement plan, then the taxpayer shall, to the extent of the amount of the contribution, be treated as having received the qualified foreclosure recovery distribution in an eligible rollover distribution (as defined in section 402(c)(4) of such Code) and as having transferred the amount to the eligible retirement plan in a direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days of the distribution.

(3) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS.—For purposes of such Code, if a contribution is made pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to a qualified foreclosure recovery distribution from an individual retirement plan (as defined by section 7701(a)(37) of such Code), then, to the extent of the amount of the contribution, the qualified foreclosure recovery distribution shall be treated as a distribution described in section 408(d)(3) of such Code and as having been transferred to the eligible retirement plan in a direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days of the distribution.

(4) APPLICATION TO ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be treated as requiring an eligible retirement plan to accept any contributions described in this subsection.

(B) QUALIFICATION.—An eligible retirement plan shall not be treated as violating any requirement of Federal law solely by reason of the acceptance of contributions described in this subparagraph.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) QUALIFIED FORECLOSURE RECOVERY DISTRIBUTION.—The term "qualified foreclosure recovery distribution" means any distribution to an individual from an eligible retirement plan which is made—

(A) on or after the date of the enactment of this Act and before January 1, 2010, and

(B) during a taxable year during which the individual has qualifying mortgage expenditures.

(2) QUALIFYING MORTGAGE EXPENDITURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "qualifying mortgage expenditures" means any of the following expenditures:

(i) Payment of principal or interest on an applicable mortgage.

(ii) Payment of costs paid or incurred in refinancing, or modifying the terms of, an applicable mortgage.

(B) APPLICABLE MORTGAGE.—The term "applicable mortgage" means a mortgage which—

(i) was entered into after December 31, 1999, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) constitutes a security interest in the principal residence of the mortgagor.

(C) JOINT FILERS.—In the case of married individuals filing a joint return under section 6013 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the qualifying mortgage expenditures of the taxpayer may be allocated between the spouses in such manner as they elect.

(3) ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—The term "eligible retirement plan" shall have the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(8)(B) of such Code.

(4) PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—The term "principal residence" has the same meaning as when used in section 121 of such Code.

(e) INCOME INCLUSION SPREAD OVER 3-YEAR PERIOD FOR QUALIFIED FORECLOSURE RECOVERY DISTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any qualified foreclosure recovery distribution, unless the taxpayer elects not to have this subsection apply for any taxable year, any amount required to be included in gross income for such taxable year shall be so included ratably over the 3-taxable year period beginning with such taxable year.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), rules similar to the rules of subparagraph (E) of section 408A(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply.

(f) SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) EXEMPTION OF DISTRIBUTIONS FROM TRUSTEE TO TRUSTEE TRANSFER AND WITHHOLDING RULES.—For purposes of sections 401(a)(31), 402(f), and 3405 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, qualified foreclosure recovery distributions shall not be treated as eligible rollover distributions.

(2) QUALIFIED FORECLOSURE RECOVERY DISTRIBUTIONS TREATED AS MEETING PLAN DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of such Code, a qualified foreclosure recovery distribution shall be treated as meeting the requirements of sections 401(k)(2)(B)(i), 403(b)(7)(A)(ii), 403(b)(11), and 457(d)(1)(A) of such Code.

(3) SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL PERIODIC PAYMENTS.—A qualified foreclosure recovery distribution—

(A) shall be disregarded in determining whether a payment is a part of a series of substantially equal periodic payment under section 72(t)(2)(A)(iv) of such Code, and

(B) shall not constitute a change in substantially equal periodic payments under section 72(t)(4) of such Code.

(g) PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If this subsection applies to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract, such plan or contract shall be treated as being operated in accordance with the terms of the plan during the period described in paragraph (2)(B)(i).

(2) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH SUBSECTION APPLIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract which is made—

(i) pursuant to the provisions this section, or pursuant to any regulation issued by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor under this section, and

(ii) on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2010, or such later date as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

In the case of a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), clause (ii) shall be applied by substituting the date which is 2 years after the date otherwise applied under clause (ii).

(B) CONDITIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to any amendment unless—

(i) during the period—

(I) beginning on the date the legislative or regulatory amendment described in subparagraph (A)(i) takes effect (or in the case of a plan or contract amendment not required by such legislative or regulatory amendment, any later effective date specified by the plan), and

(II) ending on the date described in subparagraph (A)(ii) (or, if earlier, the date the plan or contract amendment is adopted), the plan or contract is operated as if such plan or contract amendment were in effect; and

(ii) such plan or contract amendment applies retroactively for such period.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, under current law, you can invade your retirement fund, your 401(k) fund, in order to purchase a home without paying the 10-percent penalty. What this amendment says is, if home ownership and keeping people in their homes is an important value in America, and they are about to have their home taken away because of this foreclosure crisis, then it seems to me we would want to amend the law to allow them to take money out of their retirement fund in order to forestall the foreclosure and stay in their homes.

That is what this amendment does. It allows someone to withdraw up to \$25,000 from their retirement fund without paying the 10-percent penalty. That has to be used for the purpose of foreclosure prevention purposes; that is like paying on the principal or interest payments; that is like a refinancing or a mortgage modification.

To make sure people do not abuse this, we are limiting it to a 2-year period and we are additionally going to say, the money you bring out to help you so you do not go into foreclosure, if you put that money back into your retirement fund within 3 years, you are not going to have to pay the income tax on it. So it is a direct, tailored amendment to try to help people accomplish what the underlying goal is, which is to prevent foreclosures.

I am joined by my colleague from Minnesota, who wants to speak on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise with my colleague from Florida to speak on behalf of our amendment No. 4423. I start by thanking, first, the chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator DODD, and ranking member Senator SHELBY, for bringing us to this point. People are losing their homes. I hear it. We all heard it when we went back over Easter break. For Senator DODD and Senator SHELBY to come together in a bipartisan way and give us

an opportunity to do what this Senate is going to be doing, I express my deep appreciation; also to Senator BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY, the chair and the ranking member, for working with us on this amendment. It is one of those things that goes to the heart of what we are trying to do today.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MARTINEZ be added as a cosponsor of this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, during our travels back home to housing townhall forums during the course of this last year, we are all meeting more and more folks who are in very desperate straits, trying to keep their home. Minnesota ranks No. 2 in the number of subprime mortgages in for closure. Minnesota—who would have thought? That is the reality. It is across the country. I was in a forum at St. Cloud, in the central part of my State. I met a nurse named Terri Ross, a woman who had two jobs, bought a house which was in need of repair. She had a pretty good mortgage, low interest rate, and wanted actually to quit one job to go back to school. She wanted to improve herself, improve her life, add to her education. She met with the mortgage broker. He said: Have I got a deal for you. We can get you a mortgage and it will be at a low rate. Don't worry about the fact—I am not sure she even knew it was going to pop up in a few years. Don't worry about it because property values are rising and there will be more equity in your house. She put the money in the house, did the mortgage. When all was said and done, she found herself in the situation where the value of the house was less than the value of the additions. She had lost one job. She now had one job, her income was in half. She is in big trouble.

Here is a woman who worked all her life, put aside some money for retirement. What she did is she tapped into that and then she paid a penalty on it, trying to save her home. That was what she had. The problem is, across the Nation, people are now looking to use their retirement savings to save their homes and they get hit hard with a 10-percent early withdrawal penalty.

There was an article in USA Today. They ran a piece entitled “401(K)s Tapped to Save Homes.” The article focuses on this problem. Americans are being slammed with taxes and penalties as they try to keep their homes.

I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks this article be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. COLEMAN. These are the stories my friend from Florida and I have been exchanging. We have personal accounts that do stretch from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes. These are the reasons we were called to take up this commonsense cause. We want to work

on this legislation that Senator NELSON and I believe is one more way we can responsibly help homeowners, to temporarily waive this 10-percent penalty for withdrawals up to \$25,000. Our amendment would also waive ordinary income taxes, as the Senator from Florida indicated, if the homeowner pays back the withdrawal within 3 years of making it, so homeowners are provided with a strong incentive to make their retirement savings whole again.

This is not a silver bullet—I don't know if there is a silver bullet in terms of the crisis we are dealing with—but it helps those whom we want to help, homeowners who are in big trouble. In doing so, this temporary relief can prevent an unnecessary foreclosure from happening, one which hurts not only the family but hurts the entire community. When houses are foreclosed and vacant, it affects everyone in the surrounding area. It affects the neighborhoods. As a former mayor, I looked at neighborhoods we built up in my time as mayor and I believe the same neighborhoods are being torn down by the crisis we are facing.

This bill is about homeowners helping themselves. While the 10-percent penalty is well intentioned and we do not want people to be using retirement savings during their working years, times such as this require us to recognize that sometimes such rules need to be flexible in order to serve a greater good. Both on a home ownership level and community level, I believe it makes sense to enable those who can to keep their homes. Ultimately it is up to the homeowner to decide whether it makes financial sense to turn to their retirement savings to keep their homes.

At least for those who decide to do so, we should not penalize them for trying to keep a roof over their heads and wanting to remain part of the community they have called home.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense and much needed relief.

I yield the floor.

[From USA Today]

401(K)s TAPPED TO SAVE HOMES

(By Christine Dugas)

Struggling to save their homes from foreclosure, more Americans are raiding their 401(k) retirement accounts to pay their bills—and getting slammed with taxes and penalties in the process, according to retirement plan administrators.

Rather than borrow money from their 401(k) accounts, which would have to be paid back, a growing number of beleaguered families have been cashing out, plan administrators say.

This is happening even as borrowing from 401(k) accounts remains fairly flat. Fewer still are borrowing from 401(k) plans to buy homes. By contrast, new figures from plan administrators show the number of 401(k) “hardship withdrawals” is up in early 2008 compared with the same period last year.

The main reason? The need to stave off foreclosure or eviction.

Consider Tamara Campbell, who raided her 401(k) after her husband was laid off from his job as an occupational technician, and they

fell behind on their mortgage for several months. "If I hadn't done that, we would have been foreclosed on last year," says Campbell, who lives in a Denver suburb.

Such hardship withdrawals began rising last year and, by January this year, had exceeded January 2007 levels. During the first month of the year, as the economic slowdown tightened pressure on mortgage holders, hardship withdrawals rose 23 percent at plans that Merrill Lynch (MER) administers compared with the same period in 2007, says Kevin Crain, managing director of the Merrill Lynch Retirement Group.

The 401(k) withdrawals are rising mainly because people such as Campbell and her husband want to save their homes. Merrill Lynch found that the primary reason for the rise in hardship withdrawals was to prevent foreclosure or eviction, based on its sampling of applications filed in January.

Likewise, in the first month of the year, compared with January 2007, Great-West Retirement Services saw a 20 percent increase in hardship withdrawals to save a home. And Principal Financial (PFG) reports that in January it received 245 calls from participants who inquired about 401(k) withdrawals to prevent a foreclosure or eviction, up dramatically from 45 similar calls it received in January 2007.

For workers, the consequences can be severe. About 85 percent of employers bar employees from making 401(k) contributions for six months after taking a hardship withdrawal, says Pamela Hess, director of retirement research at Hewitt Associates (HEW). Worse, employees who pull money out of tax-deferred 401(k) plans before age 59½ generally must pay a 10 percent penalty on top of the taxes owed.

A 401(k) loan imposes no such punishment. "But let's face it: If your problem is paying bills, and if you take out a loan, then you just add another bill to pay," says Nevin Adams of PlanSponsor.com, which monitors the 401(k) industry.

As Campbell considers whether to make another withdrawal, she notes, "It's not the kind of thing you want to use your 401(k) for. And if I keep doing this, I'm not going to have any retirement savings."

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to close with a couple of sentences. As the chairman of the Banking Committee can so well instruct us, for most Americans, their home is their most valuable asset. We ought to be adopting policy, through enacting law, that allows them to be able to stay in their own home and to use every tool available to stay in that home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I have great respect for my colleague from Florida and the Senator from Minnesota for their work on this effort, having been involved years ago in the creation of Individual Retirement Accounts going back to the early 1980s, recognizing the value of encouraging people to set aside hard-earned income for retirement, for health care, for education as the motivation. Let me mention one concern I have while both Senators are on the floor, and I don't question at all the motivations behind it. There is nothing in this amendment that would require a writedown. What we are trying to do is get the lenders to write down the size of these mortgages,

to work out different arrangements so the borrower could afford the mortgage.

What concerns me here is, while we are using this retirement income or these savings accounts to help meet these obligations, there is no commensurate responsibility on the part of the lender to try to reduce the cost. At the end of 2 years you may end up at exactly the same level. The money goes into the pockets of the lender, but at the end of the 2 years we are still faced with the size mortgage we had before, and the homeowner is in the same position they are in today.

I don't have any quick idea here for you to tie this together to see if we can't incentivize that lender on that mortgage to also write down the cost of part of that or to restructure it in a way so that person facing foreclosure would be able to handle this. These moneys would be of tremendous help to them. But if you don't do anything about the size of the mortgage or conditions of it, all you have done is kicked the can down the road for 2 years and then also watch that retirement income get exhausted. You can put it back in, but it seems to be defeating the very purpose of trying to get workouts.

We started a year ago with the stakeholders and set up a set of principles for writedowns. Unfortunately, according to Moody's, only 1 percent of the lending institutions have done that in a year—tragically, in my view. We would be in a very different position had they done otherwise. So I am very suspicious about their willingness to do this, and merely providing additional resources to them coming out of people's hard-earned money, although you have a good idea putting money back in. I would like to find a way to incentivize the lender so the people can use these resources to stay in the home. That is merely an idea to consider in the next couple of days as we go forward.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, frankly, I think this is a good discussion. There is merit for both, for those who want to amend the law so IRAs can be used to help people finance their homes, but I also think the Senator from Connecticut, the chairman of the Banking Committee, makes a very good point. We don't want to let the lenders off the hook either.

From a tax perspective, we in the Finance Committee believe—I can speak for myself anyway—that the purpose of this amendment is close enough to the nature of the purpose of the IRAs and the savings vehicles in the first place to warrant an exception that will last for 2 years because, after all, a home is pretty close to retirement. People should be saving for retirement in these retirement programs. If saving their home means dipping into their retirement savings, then I think that would be appropriate, as to avoiding the 10-percent penalty. Also it is in effect for only 2 years, so from a tax per-

spective I think it is appropriate. However, I think the chairman of the banking committees makes an excellent point and I would join with the Senator to see if he can find some way to incentivize lenders to do what they should be doing, at least with respect to the principal on a lot of these mortgage loans.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, will the Senator yield? Can we then create some ideas between our respective staffs—yours, Finance; the Banking Committee; ours individually—and see if we can come up with something to address the issue?

Mr. BAUCUS. I think we should. I will devote my staff to that effort.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I thank the Senator.

Mr. COLEMAN. If the Senator will yield, I also understand the concern raised by the chairman of the Banking Committee. I will be pleased to work with the chairman and my colleagues. I ask the chairman of the Finance Committee, I think one of the things he did address, a piece of issue, had to do with the tax consequences. If a mortgage was \$150,000 and it was taken down to \$100,000 by agreement, in the past that \$50,000 was a taxable gain. I believe recently—again, this little piece—we took that building block and said: Hey, if you knock it down to \$100,000, that \$50,000 is no longer a taxable gain; is that correct?

Mr. BAUCUS. That is correct.

Mr. COLEMAN. All these pieces fit together. Again, there is no silver bullet at the end, but if we can come closer to addressing the full range of concerns, I think that would be positive. I think we already moved, with the leadership of the chairman of the Finance Committee, to address that one piece. This is another piece. It is your home, your future, and clearly there is more work to be done.

Mr. BAUCUS. I appreciate that. Earlier, when the Senator from Minnesota talked about silver bullets I was smiling because it is my view there are never silver bullets. It is always a major effort to find lots of different pieces, different steps to address the difficulties.

The occupant of the chair might remember this. There is a famous journalist, H.L. Mencken, of Baltimore, who said: For every complicated problem there is a simple solution—and it doesn't work.

I guess that is true of this situation, too.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, what is the unanimous consent agreement?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is to be recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to add to the unanimous consent agreement: If I could let my colleague go before me and then I could speak whenever he is finished or at 11 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Reserving the right to object, I will not. I am in the queue as well. I want to make sure I know where I am. I understand now I will follow Senator THUNE.

AMENDMENT NO. 4419

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I wish to speak to the amendment of the Senator from Nevada, Mr. ENSIGN, regarding renewable energy.

As much as I appreciate the fact, as the Senator from Connecticut has pointed out, that this is a housing bill and there is a mortgage crisis out there that needs to be addressed, I would also argue, first of all, that, this being the Senate, we oftentimes consider amendments to bills that are not necessarily related to the underlying base bill, and secondly, that there probably is not an issue that impacts the folks I represent in South Dakota any more than does the high cost of energy.

Now, granted, as you travel across the country—and this is true in my State, as I think it is in every State—people are following closely what is happening with the subprime mortgage crisis, and the Senate and the Congress are reacting to that with the legislation that is currently on the floor. But if you look at it in the context of the broader economy and what is impacting the pocketbooks of Americans every single day—and certainly of South Dakotans—there is no question that high energy prices are impacting the lives of everyone I represent in South Dakota. We are a very energy-dependent State, and we travel long distances; we are a farm economy, so those inputs are very important to our economic well-being. We are a cold-weather State, and so electricity is in very high demand, both during the cold-weather season but also during the hot-weather season.

It seems to me that if we are going to address the economic issues that affect this country right now, we cannot do that without taking a hard look at what we can do to make energy more affordable to people in this country. So I would argue to my colleagues who have made the point that this is, in fact, a housing bill that, notwithstanding that is the basic focus of this bill, when we look at addressing the economy, I think in the broader context this is what this whole discussion is about: how can we bring relief to hard-working people who are struggling with the economic pains created by the housing crisis, by high energy prices, by high health care costs. Those are all factors that impact the pocketbooks of everyday Americans. So I think the discussion of this renewable energy extender amendment is perfectly appropriate in the context of this debate.

I would also say, with respect to the Senator from Montana, who has worked very hard, along with the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, on an energy package that would extend many of the tax incentives that are in place for renewable energy, we have

had that legislation now on the floor of the Senate several different times and have been unable to reach that magic 60-vote threshold that is necessary to end a filibuster and to move forward with the legislation. So I would argue that every opportunity we have, we need to move forward with this debate about energy and what we are going to do to lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy to make energy more affordable to more Americans. So I think it fits perfectly within the context of this debate.

I would also say, with regard to some of the extenders that will impact those that relate to energy production in my part of the world, I am particularly interested in the wind energy production tax credit, the 2-cent-per-kilowatt credit that applies to wind, and I have talked to investors who are looking at wind energy projects across this country and who are prepared to invest capital to build wind energy production but cannot deal with the uncertainty that exists with regard to Federal policy. The wind energy production tax credit expires at the end of this year, and if we do not do something in the very near future, those who are looking at making investments—that investment capital is going to dry up. We cannot afford to have that happen at a time when we have an increasing and growing demand for energy across this country.

We are trying to look at the whole issue of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon emissions and find new renewable forms of energy that will help address our energy needs in a clean, environmentally friendly way. We cannot afford to allow these tax incentives for renewable energy production to lapse at the very time that there is investment sitting there on the sidelines waiting to invest in wind energy production and solar energy production, but with the lack of certainty that exists today because of the pending expiration of these production tax credits, that investment very well could end up staying on the sidelines and not be made. That would be a very tragic outcome, I would argue, for our country.

So I would hope that every opportunity we have here in the Senate—and frankly there will not be that many opportunities, regrettably, this year on legislation that actually is going to pass here in the Senate to which to attach these types of amendments. The Senator from Montana has said there will be a tax extender bill moving later. I hope he is right. I hope we have a window down the road to get addressed some of these tax measures that are expiring. But if, in fact, that does not happen or if it happens later in the year, sometime in the summer, we are going to miss a lot of opportunity, a lot of capital investment in wind energy and other types of renewable energy production that we otherwise would get if we had some certainty with regard to what the policy is going to be.

So, again, as much as there are jurisdictional objections being raised by the Senator from Connecticut with regard to this bill being a housing bill, the Senator from Montana regarding the need to do this later on a piece of legislation that might be a tax bill moving through the Finance Committee and ultimately out to the floor, I would simply make the case to my colleagues that timing is important. Timing really is critical with respect to whether we are going to continue to have incentives in place, economic incentives for investment in renewable energy. Frankly, based on the conversations I have had with those who are looking at making those types of capital investments in wind energy and other forms of renewable energy production, they are very concerned that Congress has yet to act.

I would much rather see a multiyear extension of the production tax credit for wind, and some of the other renewable energy tax credits, than doing this for 1 year because I do not think that provides the long-term certainty that is necessary. But I would much rather have a 1-year extension than face the prospect of this production tax credit expiring at the end of this year and us not addressing it and seeing a whole lot of capital investment that otherwise would be made in these areas of production stay on the sidelines and us continue to go down this path of increasing dependence on foreign sources of energy, growing demand for energy here in the United States, and a need to lessen the greenhouse gas emissions into our atmosphere and us doing nothing about that. So my fear is that if we do not act now, perhaps this thing gets punted down the road, perhaps it does not get addressed this year, in which case the production tax credit would expire. That would be a tragic outcome, a tragic result for this country and for the goals we have when it comes to renewable energy.

I would simply say to my colleagues who are going to hear objections raised on procedural grounds about dealing with these production tax credits in the context of this particular bill that we need to look at the broader picture. We have an energy crisis in this country. We have those who want to invest in renewable energy products that would help address that, that would meet all of the goals I mentioned about clean energy, about lessening our dependence upon foreign energy.

Frankly, the argument that was made by my colleague from Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, with regard to wind energy being more of a localized, regional issue, that is predominately true. But so is oil production. There are lots of parts of the country that do not have certain energy sources. Yet we all rely upon all of those energy sources for our energy needs in this country. We happen to have an abundance of wind in the upper Midwest which I think has been underutilized, but it has the potential to meet the energy needs of people not just in South

Dakota or North Dakota or Nebraska or Iowa or Minnesota but all across the country. We need to be making the investments in those types of energy sources, and we need to have the policies in place that would create the economic incentives for that to happen.

I hope that in spite of the objections that will be raised on some procedural grounds to moving forward, that absent action to date and having seen in the past—looking historically at what has happened to this wind energy production tax credit over time, since 1992 when it was originally enacted, every time it comes to where it is about to expire or does expire—you will see this peak investment when it is in place. When it comes to where it is running out, the investment falls off, tails off; it expires, gets put back in place, and it takes off again. We need to even that out so we don't have these peaks and valleys, that we have consistent policies in place that will provide the certainty and the necessary incentives for those who want to invest in these types of energy sources to be able to do.

So I hope we will pass the Ensign amendment and put it on this bill. The objection has been raised that this could derail the housing bill. Frankly, the House has voted not on one occasion but on several occasions already for these very same renewable energy tax credits, and I suspect that they would welcome the opportunity to have that vote again in the House of Representatives. I hope it will be part of this package because it does address the fundamental issue when it comes to our broader economy; that is, the high cost of energy that is plaguing and harming and impacting the pocketbooks of every single American.

I urge my colleagues, when we have this vote, which I assume will be early next week, to vote yes for the Ensign amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside so that I might call up my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4382 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4387

(Purpose: To provide an incentive to employers to offer group legal plans that provide a benefit for real estate and foreclosure review)

Mrs. LINCOLN. I call up my amendment No. 4382.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mrs. LINCOLN], for herself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. KERRY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. LEVIN, proposes an amendment numbered 4382 to amendment No. 4387.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide an incentive to employers to offer group legal plans that provide a benefit for real estate and foreclosure review)

At the end of title III add the following:

SEC. 302. EXCLUSION FOR AMOUNTS RECEIVED UNDER QUALIFIED GROUP LEGAL SERVICES PLANS RESTORED, EXTENDED, AND MODIFIED.

(a) REMOVAL OF DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Section 120(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to exclusion by employee for contributions and legal services provided by employer) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) REAL ESTATE MATTERS EMPHASIZED.—Section 120(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to requirements) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) BENEFITS.—The plan shall provide, at a minimum, legal services for real estate matters relating to family or personal residences, including document review of real estate sales, purchases, closings, mortgages, and foreclosures.”

(c) EXTENSION.—Section 120(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(e) APPLICATION.—This section and section 501(c)(20) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007, and before January 1, 2010.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, the amendment I am offering today is a very important amendment because we are all here because we are concerned about the crisis that exists in the mortgage industry and certainly in home ownership, but, more importantly, we want to prevent it from happening again. We want to make sure we are providing information to home buyers and others, counseling them in a way that really makes a difference. The amendment I am offering today will encourage our employers to provide group legal services benefits with an emphasis on real estate counseling for their employees.

Group legal services plans have been around since the 1970s and are intended to do exactly what the Center for Responsible Lending says should be one of our very top priorities in this effort to deal with the housing crisis. We should be encouraging and incentivizing preventative legal services.

I want to make sure my colleagues understand how important this benefit is for our Nation's employees, particularly employees in rural areas and low-income areas where access to lawyers might be scarce. We should be giving the average American homeowner access to legal advice so that she or he can feel confident in the mortgages they are getting into and so that when, God forbid, things do go wrong, they can receive advice about what their rights and responsibilities are in dealing with foreclosures and what options are available to them in dealing with this crisis.

Section 120 of the Internal Revenue Code has lapsed. That section of the code was intended to provide a tax incentive so that our employers would offer group legal services plans to their employees. Since it has lapsed, virtually no new group legal benefit plans have been created and many employers are dropping those that do exist.

We should be encouraging these plans because they provide our working

Americans with access to the legal advice they need, that they deserve, and that they often cannot access. Those legal services would provide a review of mortgage documents, would work with lenders to modify the loans and would create forbearance agreements, would assist in the restructuring of loans, and would provide counsel in foreclosure litigation when that is needed. These are all complex transactions that require significant legal counsel, and my amendment will help ensure that America's homeowners, particularly those who are hard-working American families, and those home buyers, can get that much needed advice. We have provided this advice and certainly these services, as I mentioned earlier, since the 1970s through this benefit where employers can actually pool their resources in providing this type of advice and service to their employees.

I wish to thank all of my colleagues who have cosponsored this important amendment. Many of us have worked on a separate bill, and we think this is absolutely an appropriate and a proper place to put this incentive. But Senator SMITH, Senator KERRY, Senator STABENOW, Senator LEVIN, Senator SCHUMER, and Senator KENNEDY are all cosponsors of our amendment.

Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent now to add Senator SNOWE as a cosponsor, who is also a cosponsor of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I also want to say a very big thanks to all of the groups that have endorsed this amendment: the American Bar Association, the American Prepaid Legal Services Institute, the International Union, the UAW, the AFSCME, and the Laborers. All of these groups have recognized how important it is to be able to provide these legal services to hard-working American families.

Particularly at a time when they may be affected in their home ownership or in the difficulties and challenges they face in the problems that exist in the mortgage industry right now, this is a critical component of the assistance we can provide them. To have let it lapse and to see that it virtually no longer exists is something we can correct. I hope we will with this amendment.

So, Mr. President, I thank you for the time, and I also say a special thanks to my chairman, Chairman BAUCUS, and Ranking Member GRASSLEY, who have worked with us on this issue, along with Chairman DODD and Ranking Member SHELBY, who have done such a tremendous job in organizing and putting together, in an expeditious way, the effort we have to address these issues that working families are facing.

So I thank them and their staff for working with us, and we look forward to being able to move our amendment. I hope my colleagues will join me in

support of such an important amendment, a vehicle as well as a component that we already know works because we have had it in this country for quite some time in providing legal services to working American families. We want to continue to see that happen.

AMENDMENT NO. 4433 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4387

Mr. President, before I yield the floor, I ask unanimous consent to lay aside the pending amendment and call up an amendment on behalf of Senator SNOWE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mrs. LINCOLN], for Ms. SNOWE, proposes an amendment numbered 4433 to amendment No. 4387.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the increase in volume cap for housing bonds in 2008)

On page 70, strike lines 14 through 22 and insert the following:

“(A) INCREASE FOR 2008.—In the case of calendar year 2008, the State ceiling for each State shall be increased by an amount equal to the greater of—

“(i) \$10,000,000,000 multiplied by a fraction—

“(I) the numerator of which is the population of such State, and

“(II) the denominator of which is the total population of all States, or

“(ii) the amount determined under subparagraph (B).

“(B) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount determined under this subparagraph is—

“(i) in the case of a State (other than a possession), \$90,300,606, and

“(ii) in the case of a possession of the United States with a population less than the least populous State (other than a possession), the product of—

“(I) a fraction the numerator of which is \$90,300,606 and the denominator of which is population of the least populous State (other than a possession), and

“(II) the population of such possession.

In the case of any possession of the United States not described in clause (ii), the amount determined under this subparagraph shall be zero.

“(C) SET ASIDE.—

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, the amendment Senator SNOWE is offering with several other colleagues is an amendment that focuses on what we passed and maybe what we did not quite notice. The Finance Committee passed an important provision that would provide an additional \$10 billion in mortgage revenue bonds for first-time home buyers and at-risk borrowers. This is something we have been trying to do, and we have had much leadership in the Senate on this issue.

Under present law, however, mortgage revenue bonds are allocated with a small State set-aside. The \$10 billion in the current package is allocated only based on State populations. As we know, the economic downturn and housing collapse do not necessarily correspond to the population of States.

Those of us who come from smaller States recognize that and also recognize the benefits that have been pro-

vided in the underlying law that exists in that small State set-aside.

The Snowe amendment adds enough additional bonds so large States will still receive their due under the allocation of the \$10 billion by population, but small and rural States also receive their allocation based on a small State set-aside under the current law.

I think it is an important point we have noticed in terms of what the underlying law does and has done effectively and making sure we incorporate that into what we do moving forward in the legislation we have.

This amendment only costs about \$134 million, but it means an awful lot for small and rural States in order to make sure they have equity in being able to access the resources their homeowners need and their States can provide through those revenue bonds.

So I urge my colleagues to support this fair and reasonable amendment which will be a good addition to the mortgage revenue bond provision in the underlying bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 4404 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4387

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be laid aside and call up amendment No. 4404.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] proposes an amendment numbered 4404 to amendment No. 4387.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the provisions relating to qualified mortgage bonds to include relief for persons in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma)

Beginning on page 68, strike line 22 and all that follows through line 4 on page 69 and insert the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (i)(1), the proceeds of a qualified mortgage issue may be used to refinance a mortgage which—

“(i) was originally financed by the mortgage through a qualified subprime loan, or

“(ii) is a mortgage on a residence—

“(I) located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone (as defined in section 1400M(1)) and damaged or rendered uninhabitable by reason of Hurricane Katrina,

“(II) located in the Rita GO Zone (as defined in section 1400M(3)) and damaged or rendered uninhabitable by reason of Hurricane Rita, or

“(III) located in the Wilma GO Zone (as defined in section 1400M(5)) and damaged or rendered uninhabitable by reason of Hurricane Wilma.

On page 72, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

(C) WAIVER OF 3-YEAR REQUIREMENT FOR HOMES DAMAGED BY HURRICANES KATRINA, RITA, AND WILMA.—Paragraph (2) of section 143(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is

amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C), by inserting “and” at the end of subparagraph (D), and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) in the case of bonds issued after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph and before January 1, 2011, financing with respect to the purchase of any residence—

“(i) located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone (as defined in section 1400M(1)) and damaged or rendered uninhabitable by reason of Hurricane Katrina,

“(ii) located in the Rita GO Zone (as defined in section 1400M(3)) and damaged or rendered uninhabitable by reason of Hurricane Rita, or

“(iii) located in the Wilma GO Zone (as defined in section 1400M(5)) and damaged or rendered uninhabitable by reason of Hurricane Wilma.”

On page 72, line 11, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

On page 73, line 19, strike “(d)” and insert “(e)”.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I appreciate the support earlier today of an amendment that I, Senator COCHRAN, Senator VITTER, and Senator WICKER brought forward for the people of the gulf coast—thousands and thousands and thousands of homeowners, responsible homeowners, homeowners who did not exploit opportunities for fancy-dancy mortgages, homeowners who took just the regular standard mortgages, who had actually paid their mortgages off, and kept insurance their whole life. Then, in 2005, two storms hit the gulf coast and literally wiped out the net worth—literally, a great deal of the net worth—of hundreds of thousands of families on the gulf coast.

The reason I continue to come to the Senate floor is because the Stafford Act, which would normally come, if you would, to the rescue of people in our country in this situation, is wholly inadequate for either the initial recovery or the long-term rebuilding. It is not just what MARY LANDRIEU says, the Senator from Louisiana. It is what Secretary Chertoff testified before our committee last week. I am going to submit his actual quote for the RECORD. It is what Chief Paulson of FEMA said yesterday, testifying before the committee. It is what the inspector general of the Homeland Security Department said yesterday testifying before our committee.

So this is my dilemma as a Senator from a State that has had an unprecedented disaster. I would have been happy to receive the Stafford Act and just make it work for us. But since it is not working for us, I am kind of inventing things as we go along, trying to take appropriate and responsible advantage of other bills that come along that actually might be appropriate for our situation.

I am trying not to ask for too much but only what we need. But since the structure we have is not applicable, I have no choice. So I have been waiting for a year and a half to get a housing bill on the Senate floor so we could make some of these changes. I appreciate my colleagues being understanding and supportive, and everybody has been just terrific.

As I said earlier this week, we have had some terrible situations in Detroit, in California, in Las Vegas, in Sacramento, thousands and thousands in San Bernardino, CA. But as I said, some of these homeowners could have gotten themselves in trouble. They might have done things they should not have done. I do not know. Maybe some people were victims of fraud. That will be worked out, I hope, through some of the legislation we are passing.

But the reason I pull this chart up is to say that even in the worst area in the country right now for foreclosures, which is Detroit, Dearborn, MI, with 42,000 homes—these are official numbers—only 4.9 percent of the houses in this whole area are basically in foreclosure or for which there is a threatening pending foreclosure.

I bring this contrast to show you that down on the gulf coast, those numbers are dwarfed by what Katrina and Rita and the subsequent levee breaks did to our homeowners. In St. Bernard Parish, almost 55 percent—not 4 percent, not 10 percent, not 20 percent but 54 percent of the homes in St. Bernard Parish—had damage exceeding 30,000. Some of these homes were only worth \$50,000. Some were worth \$350,000. But they are basically completely damaged.

In fact, the sheriff and the parish president told me that there were only five homes undamaged in the whole parish after Katrina and Rita—after those waters went down—5 out of the 67,000 people who live in this parish.

For Cameron Parish, almost 50 percent of their households have had completely devastating damage to their homes.

So, if you can, picture a place that does not have just a spattering of houses and weeds and emptiness but places that have blocks and blocks and miles and miles of homes that are empty and gutted with the windows and doors open and the families gone. People are struggling to come back with a very inadequate Federal framework right now to help them.

I know we have sent down a lot of community development block grant money. After a lot of contortions that everybody went through, we finally crafted a plan to give each of these homeowners, if they qualified—they had to prove they owned the land; they had to prove they paid taxes; they had to prove they were actually the right homeowner—we gave them a grant, no more than \$150,000. The average is about \$60,000 for Mississippi and Louisiana. Our plans are similar but not the same.

But you can imagine the problem with a family who owned their house outright, they had no mortgage. It was worth \$350,000 or \$400,000 or \$500,000, and the most grant they could possibly get is \$150,000.

So we are far away from trying to make people whole. Why should we try to make them whole? Again, it is nothing

they did. They did not cause the hurricane. Some of them did not even live in floodplains. Some of the families did not have flood insurance because they were told by their mortgage holder and their bankers they did not need it. They were told by the Federal Government they did not need it.

So my amendment is an attempt to help these homeowners by not adding a penny to the underlying bill, which is a wonderful thing—that we do not have to add any money to the underlying bill because I know we are trying to keep the cost of all this down. But all my amendment would do would be to allow there to be a third reason that bonds could be issued at the State level.

In the underlying bill, the first reason, which is a good reason, is to allow first-time home buyers to buy some of the homes that have been foreclosed on that are sitting empty in neighborhoods. So what a good way to kind of get these homes back in circulation, to allow first-time home buyers with limited incomes—it is \$65,000 in my State. I am not sure what it is in everybody else's State, but that would be a lot of families with teachers, firefighters, nurses, et cetera. They are not very wealthy but not poor middle-class families. These families could come in and buy some of these homes. That is a great idea.

I used to be the State treasurer. I issued these bonds. It works. It is a happy thing when people can buy a home. The underlying bill also allows these bonds to be issued to build more multifamily dwellings. This is a desperate need in Louisiana because while we spend a lot of time talking about our homeowners who have lost homes, we had over 60 percent of the population in New Orleans, maybe between 50 and 60 percent who were not even homeowners. They were renters. Some of them were very wealthy renters. They chose to live in nice places, but a lot of the people in New Orleans—my hometown—were poor, and they could not afford a home, so they were renting. Their places have been destroyed, and we now have a growing homeless population of historic proportions.

So the provision in the underlying bill that gives the opportunity to issue bonds to build multifamily dwellings is great. We can build for the elderly, who really need affordable housing in the country. I also believe the underlying provision allows for the building of places, rentals for the disabled, which is also a growing need.

But what my amendment simply says is, there will be a third option for these bonds, and it will help to refinance homes that have been destroyed along the gulf coast in basically the storms of 2005. That is what the current amendment says.

But let me say that I am very open to modify my amendment, if the leadership wants to do that, to allow the use of these bonds to go to basically any home that was destroyed by a disaster

in the whole country. I think it would be a very good use of these bonds because, as I said, there is not a lot of help outside of just general insurance that helps people to rebuild. If people have insurance, fine; they can rebuild their home from insurance proceeds. But many people who had their houses destroyed by tornadoes or flash floods or hurricanes or earthquakes were not required to have insurance by the current law, and if they already paid off their mortgage, even if they were required to have insurance, they weren't required to after they paid off their mortgage; so a disaster hits and there is no way.

This is not a grant. This is not a giveaway. It is an opportunity to provide mortgage lending for people who may want to buy some of these homes that have been destroyed. They are not foreclosed homes; they were destroyed and owned basically now by, in our case, Government entities that are trying to recirculate these properties back into the housing market.

So that is basically what my amendment does. I hope we will have an opportunity, of course, as the day goes on, to maybe speak about it more or to have a vote on it next week, whenever the Senate decides to proceed.

I thank the Senator from Connecticut. As I was saying before he came in, the amendment I am offering now adds no cost to the underlying bill. It takes the mortgage provision piece and makes it applicable for trying to help with homes that were destroyed in a disaster. Right now, we are trying to help with homes that were destroyed, if you will, by a foreclosure situation. We are also hoping to build multifamily housing, which is great.

All we are asking for with this amendment is to basically add a third voluntary—not mandatory but voluntary on the part of the States if they want to include disaster, without adding any additional expense to the bill.

So I thank the Senator from Connecticut. I hope we will take up this amendment whenever we can.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, before the Senator from Louisiana leaves, first of all, let me commend her generally. All of us at one time or another have faced natural disasters in our State, but I can't recall anything, at least in recent memory, that would compare to what the Gulf State have suffered and particularly what the State of Louisiana has suffered. I know some may say: Well, every time there is a bill up, that Senator from Louisiana has an amendment to help her folks in Louisiana. That is how it ought to be. They are very fortunate indeed to have a fighter such as MARY LANDRIEU in their corner.

As she said, this wasn't any disaster. This was devastating. For those of us who have been there, as I was, and as one who has been there on several occasions since then, it still is stunning to me to go down and see the devastation still exists. In most disasters,

within weeks or months after the occurrence, it is amazing how recuperative areas are; however, despite the Herculean efforts of many in her State and others, the devastation still persists.

Certainly, those who have lost their homes suffer the most devastating impact of all, in many ways, because that is the center of a neighborhood, it represents the ability of a family to survive and stay together. All the elements and qualities we like to attribute to being an American family are associated with our homes. The fact that so many have been destroyed as a result of these disasters is something all of us are mindful of, and if we are not, the Senator from Louisiana reminds us of it on a daily basis. We thank her for that.

We are certainly going to do everything we can to accommodate and be supportive of this effort. As she points out, it doesn't expand the program financially. It operates within the financial constraints as the amendment has been crafted. Right now it is focused on the Gulf States, those areas that were adversely affected. My inclination is to keep it that way. That is not to suggest other States may not have had similar occurrences, but I think because of the uniqueness of what happened there, we need to recognize that in this effort. I would be a little uneasy about expanding it. Not that that is without merit, but I think particularly in this case, with this one occasion we are talking about a particular compelling case which has been made.

So once again, I thank her for fighting on behalf of our fellow American citizens who happen to be her specific constituents. We thank her for it. Over this weekend, we will take a look at it, and if there are any questions we have about it, I will get back to her, but I will be urging Senator SHELBY and others to be supportive of this idea.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Connecticut. I will follow his advice and keep the amendment tailored, and if he changes his mind, he can let us know. I appreciate his attention to this matter.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4384 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4387

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and that the Sanders amendment at the desk, No. 4384, be called up, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for himself and Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. HARKIN, proposes an amendment numbered 4384.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide an increase in specially adapted housing benefits for disabled veterans)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. — INCREASE IN SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 2102 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$12,000”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$60,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$12,000”.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators BROWN, SCHUMER, and HARKIN be added as cosponsors of this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, first, I wish to commend Senator DODD and Senator SHELBY for their work on this legislation. In particular, I wish to congratulate them on the provisions already in the bill to help our service-members and veterans. I also wish to thank Senator AKAKA, the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and Senator BURR, the ranking member, and their staffs, for helping to clear this amendment.

The amendment I am offering today will provide another piece of needed help to disabled veterans trying to stay in their homes. This amendment increases funding for a VA grant program that assists disabled veterans needing to adapt their homes to accommodate their disabilities. As the Presiding Officer knows, many thousands of soldiers, coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan as amputees, who are blind and who have a number of disabilities, and this amendment attempts to address some of those problems by helping them adapt their homes so they can live in those homes with their disabilities.

This amendment is supported by some of our Nation's largest veterans organizations, including the VFW, the DAV, AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. It is also important to note the policy changes we are advocating are contained in the independent budget, the document authored every year by many of the same organizations. It is also a policy that has the unanimous support of the majority members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, which endorsed this policy change in the 2007 and 2008 Views and Estimates letter to the Budget Committee; in other words, this policy in this amendment has broad support.

Veterans with certain severe service-connected disabilities are entitled to what are known as specially adapted housing grants of up to \$50,000. Veterans with service-connected blindness only or with loss of use of both upper extremities may receive a grant of up to \$10,000. The authors of the independent budget note increases in these amendments have been sporadic, despite the increases in real estate costs. In particular, veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are finding the current VA program does not cover the cost of adapting their homes to accommodate wheelchairs or loss of vision, to create physical therapy space or other needed changes.

This amendment increases the specialty adaptive housing grant to provide \$10,000 in additional benefits for those veterans eligible for the \$50,000 grant and \$2,000 in additional benefits for those veterans eligible for the current \$10,000 grant. So we are raising the cap on each program to \$60,000 and \$12,000, respectively. According to CBO, for fiscal year 2009, this amendment would cost about \$6 million.

The Senate is now debating an important piece of legislation to try to bring relief to so many of the middle-income Americans who are struggling to keep their heads above water in today's economy and housing crisis. I think, given the context of this bill, certainly we can reach out to disabled veterans to adapt their homes so they can try to live as full lives as possible.

I wish to again commend Senator DODD, Senator SHELBY, and the Banking Committee for the proveteran, proservice member provisions already in this legislation, and I ask that my colleagues support this small additional benefit. I ask for my colleagues' support on this amendment, and if it is appropriate, I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, let me commend my fellow New Englander for this idea. You wonder how something such as this persisted as long as it did. I wish to commend our colleague for discovering it and finding it out. Senator SHELBY is not here this afternoon, but his staff is around, and we have been talking with them. I think this will overwhelmingly be accepted. This should not require a recorded vote.

I was telling the staff I am one of six children. My oldest sister Carolyn was born legally blind. When I arrived at the House of Representatives in the mid-1970s, I remember as a freshman I discovered you couldn't be a foreign service officer if you were legally blind. We managed to change those regulations. How silly a rule it was. Unrelated or related, I guess, to some degree here, but I thank my colleague from Vermont for raising this.

I appreciate his kind comments about Senator AKAKA. Senator KERRY and Senator COLEMAN offered some ideas as well on the veterans housing issues also. I am told by Senator SHELBY's staff he is very supportive of this

as well. This isn't a large amount. It may not be a banner headline for some, but the Senator from Vermont is going to make a difference in the lives of some families and some individuals. It may not be thousands. Even if there are a few hundred, it makes a difference.

So at a moment such as this, on a Friday afternoon, when most people have headed off for home, let the RECORD record and history record that the Senator from Vermont made a difference in the lives of a handful of people with this amendment. I thank him.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the Senator for his kind remarks.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I thank all of my colleagues who have worked so hard this week on the housing stimulus bill. I particularly want to commend my friend from Rhode Island—Senator JACK REED—for his tireless work on simplifying mortgage disclosures so that mortgage applicants will have in plain English—not fine print or jargon—the most important terms of the loan including the maximum monthly payment possible. This provision was included in the bipartisan substitute amendment and I congratulate Senator REED.

For months, as America has sunk deeper and deeper into economic distress, hard-working people all over this country have wondered what they are going to do to make ends meet—and why their Government wasn't doing more to help.

For families already strained by rising health care and gasoline costs, and with many struggling to care for an elderly parent or put a child through college, the latest economic downturn is fast becoming the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

In my State of Rhode Island, where affordable housing was already in scarce supply, thousands of families face foreclosure, eviction, and an uncertain future. For the 12-month period ending in December 2007, the foreclosure rate in Rhode Island increased by a staggering 238 percent. More than 12 percent of subprime loans in my State were in foreclosure in December 2007. The foreclosure rate among subprime loans in Rhode Island is 15 times higher than the prime loan foreclosure rate.

This is a crisis that strikes at the most vulnerable. As I talked to Rhode Islanders during the recent recess, I heard over and over again about the difficulty of making ends meet in this fragile economy. And as they watch things get worse, they wonder why our Government would do so much to keep the investment bank Bear Stearns from going under, but so little for them and their neighbors.

There are some in this city, and in this building, who believe that if we simply let the markets correct themselves, all will be well. I have great faith in market forces, and I've seen firsthand the power of American industry and American ingenuity to work

great good in our country and our world. But we in Government should know by now that market forces need disciplined constraint, and that the American people deserve better than to see their homes swept away by a financial typhoon while Congress stands idly by. They need our help.

Earlier this week, after hard work and good-faith negotiations, Senators DODD and SHELBY reached a compromise on legislation to soften the blow of the residential real estate collapse. In addition to Senator REED's disclosure provision, the bill now before us includes \$4 billion in funding for community development block grants to assist States and municipalities in purchasing and rehabilitating homes that have been foreclosed upon, and \$100 million for pre-foreclosure counseling. It also includes Federal Housing Administration reform that will increase the availability of FHA-backed mortgages, offering an alternative to the subprime market for more middle- and lower-income families for whom buying a new home might otherwise be out of reach.

This agreement is a strong start, but it failed to include a provision authored by Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois that would permit bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of a primary residence mortgage. I was proud to cosponsor Senator DURBIN's amendment, which included this provision, and was disappointed that the amendment lost a procedural vote yesterday. I plan to support my colleague from Illinois as he continues his efforts to enact this important change to the bankruptcy code.

As my colleagues know, unlike most contracts, including mortgages on vacation homes and family farms, bankruptcy judges cannot currently modify the terms of the very contract most dear to families facing bankruptcy, their principal residence: the place they call home, where they raise their children, know their neighbors, and live their lives.

Simply put, this provision would fix this glaring anomaly in section 1322(b)(2) of the bankruptcy code so that primary residence mortgages are treated like most other secured debts. Like any secured creditor, the mortgage holder would be entitled to adequate protection of his or her property interest during the chapter 13 case. The modification of the mortgage would be limited by market prices and rates and to a repayment term of no longer than 30 years.

Given the cost of foreclosures—which may average as high as \$50,000 per incident—it would seem that this amendment to the bankruptcy code would benefit all parties to a mortgage. Passing this measure could help more than 600,000 families facing bankruptcy stay in their homes.

As we continue to consider this housing stimulus package, we have an opportunity to help millions of families weather this crisis and get their lives

back on track. I will continue to fight for meaningful relief for middle-class families threatened with the loss of their homes.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am told, and I could be corrected, but I think we have probably completed any amendments to be offered on this legislation at this juncture. I will wait for instruction from the leaders on how they want to proceed, and while we are doing that, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk to the substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the substitute amendment No. 4387 to H.R. 3221:

Christopher J. Dodd, Harry Reid, Mark L. Pryor, Max Baucus, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Patrick J. Leahy, Daniel K. Akaka, Ken Salazar, Sherrod Brown, Bryon L. Dorgan, Evan Bayh, Edward M. Kennedy, Jon Tester, John F. Kerry, Bill Nelson.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now send to the desk a cloture motion on the bill itself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 3221, the Housing bill.

Christopher J. Dodd, Harry Reid, Mark L. Pryor, Max Baucus, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Patrick J. Leahy, Daniel K. Akaka, Ken Salazar, Sherrod Brown, Bryon L. Dorgan, Evan Bayh, Edward M. Kennedy, Jon Tester, John F. Kerry, Bill Nelson.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the substitute amendment No. 4387 occur at 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 8; further, that the mandatory quorums for both motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for the filing of a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to S. 2739, and once this has been done, the Senate then return to H. R. 3221.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that we move to proceed to Calendar No. 616, the Forest Service, Departments of Interior and Energy resources bill, and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 616, S. 2739, Forest Service, Departments of Interior and Energy Resources bill.

Jeff Bingaman, Ron Wyden, Ken Salazar, Maria Cantwell, Mark L. Pryor, Daniel K. Akaka, Blanche L. Lincoln, Tim Johnson, Jon Tester, Christopher J. Dodd, Carl Levin, Richard Durbin, Wayne Allard, Byron L. Dorgan, Joseph Lieberman, Mary L. Landrieu, Harry Reid.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will continue with the consideration of H.R. 3221.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, there are at least one or two other Members who may come to the floor to talk about this bill or maybe even offer some

ideas they intend to propose next week when we reconvene. I thought it might be worthwhile at the end of this week—which has been a busy week, obviously, and one where a lot of attention for the first time in a long time has been focused on the most critical economic issue we face, and that is the foreclosure crisis—to restate where we are.

As many of my colleagues know, I began this process almost a year ago when we convened the stakeholders across the country on a bipartisan basis, I might add, in the Senate Banking Committee to talk about the foreclosure crisis—that was March of last year—resulting in a set of principles we adopted jointly that would make it possible for workouts of these mortgages that would make it possible for more Americans facing foreclosures to stay in their homes. That was the goal as we began last spring when this emerged as a growing problem.

I felt then, and it has been confirmed over the last number of months, that this was not a minor issue, that it was not going to go away or likely to be contained very quickly. Unfortunately, that has proven to be just the case.

Today, we are looking at economic statistics that point to a difficult time. We are in a recession. I know it has not been declared formally yet, maybe Washington hasn't called it that yet, but if you are out there trying to feed your family, put fuel in your automobile, pay your mortgage, pay your child's college tuition or anything else, you are watching inflation at the highest rates it has been in years, and we are watching unemployment numbers continue to rise. The fiscal picture of our country is the worst it has been in years, with the national debt now reaching some \$9 trillion, a staggering sum of money accumulated over the last 5 or 6 years. The value of the dollar is the lowest it has been since we allowed our currency to float back in the early 1970s.

Every major economic indicator points to what difficulty our country is in, and this crisis has been compounded and exacerbated by a foreclosure crisis. That is the center of this issue, the foreclosure crisis. So everything we should be doing should be designed to try to offer relief in that sector. If we do that, then I believe we can take a major step forward in getting us back on track again and, hopefully, this recession will not last long and people's confidence and optimism can begin to rise.

This is the first time we have dealt with this issue in any comprehensive way at all in the last year. There have been a number of other bills that have been brought to the floor that have made some contribution to this issue. But this is the first time we have actually had a day or two to debate the housing crisis and to offer some ideas on resolution of that issue.

I want to add, as quickly as I can, that anyone who thinks this bill is the end-all is making a huge mistake. This

bill is a step in the right direction, it is a positive one and a good one, but there are key missing ingredients. Why is that the case? That is the case because, candidly, we weren't able to get any debate going at all unless we could develop some consensus around several provisions on which there would be little or no debate, some core issues, and then open the process for some additional ideas, as we have seen over the last few days, with various amendments that have been offered and considered already. But it is a step in the right direction. It does not include the kind of fundamental relief for those in foreclosure or about to go into foreclosure and offering them some escape from losing their homes.

So while I welcome the steps we are taking, I would be the first to admit and tell my colleagues that we have yet to really address the underlying problem; that is, how do we keep people in their homes? In fact, we will have a hearing next week, Mr. President, on the very idea that has now been circulating over several months and that I proposed back several months ago—that has also been embraced, I might point out, by the chairman of the Financial Services Committee of the other body. I am pleased to say that there are a number of Members here, both Republicans and Democrats, who, while they have not signed on to a bill, have been extremely encouraging in terms of their support for this idea. So I hope in the coming days to be able to finalize a proposal and bring it to the floor that would, for the first time, offer some very meaningful direct relief to the people who are facing foreclosure—some 8,000 a day.

We talk in numbers here of billions of dollars and millions of people, trillions of dollars. The language gets beyond the grasp of most people to understand. But I think everyone can understand when I tell you that almost 8,000 people a day are going into foreclosure. Over the last 2 or 3 days we have been debating this bill on the floor, some 24,000 of our fellow citizens are finding themselves in danger of losing the most important possession they have outside of their families, and that is their home. And every day we wait, every day we delay, every day we procrastinate, every day we talk about something other than the core issue affecting our economy, more and more Americans run the risk of being in that statistic of losing their homes. And it isn't just them, because for every foreclosure that occurs in a square block, the value of every other home in that neighborhood declines as well. So while people are saying: Well, I am not in foreclosure, I am not likely to be there, but my neighbors are, you are affected by it. We know that values decline by as much as 1 percent of median if one of your neighbors watches their property go into foreclosure, if it ends up being boarded up or in deteriorating condition. Crime rates go up. So there is a ripple effect to all of this, and hence

the importance of addressing the underlying issue of how do we keep people in their homes.

A lot of what we are talking about in this bill is how to deal with the properties once they are foreclosed. That is not an insignificant problem, and I welcome the opportunity to do something about it. But it seems to me that if we really wanted to address the issue, instead of how much money we can spend to rehabilitate foreclosed property or how much money we can get to mayors or county supervisors to clean up neighborhoods and to put them in better shape for possible resale, or to come up with a tax provision that will make that foreclosed property attractive to some future buyer, why not spend as much time seeing to it that we keep people, where we can, in their homes? That is what we are going to be offering in the coming days.

But there are some very good ideas in this proposal, so as we go into the weekend now, before we come back on Monday and Tuesday, I thought it might be worthwhile just to briefly encapsulate what has been accomplished and what is in this bill.

First of all, we provide \$100 million for counseling services to help people stay in their homes. That is in addition to the \$180 million already appropriated last year. Senator BOND and I offered that language, and it was adopted, and it has been a real asset to these organizations out there that assist people every day.

I had the privilege of meeting with some families in Connecticut a week or so ago who were facing foreclosure and would have been in foreclosure but for the intervention of these nonprofit organizations that were able to establish a workout with the lender and the borrower and have been able to keep people in their homes. So this is \$280 million for this fiscal year. If you compare that to the \$42 million that existed previously, it is a substantial increase.

Would I like more here? Absolutely. My colleague from the State of Washington, Senator MURRAY, and Senator SCHUMER wanted \$200 million. I am not going to ever tell them I disagree with that, but in trying to put together a package here, the only amount of money the majority leader and I were able to get in that negotiation was to cut the difference and get \$100 million for counseling. I am hopeful we can add some more to that in time, but at this juncture we have \$100 million for it.

We have provided \$4 billion to go to community development block grants specifically targeted to assist local governments to take a foreclosed property and put it in condition so it can be resold or used as rental housing. That idea is to try to make sure we don't end up with a lot more supply than we already have.

One of the reasons the market is not necessarily addressing this issue as comprehensively as we might like is because the supply of housing vastly exceeds demand. When you end up with

people in foreclosure, you are adding to that supply. One of the reasons we ought to keep people in their homes is you then reduce that supply, and the normal economic market forces then would begin to assist us. That is where supply and demand get closer together and the market can help resolve some of this problem. By having foreclosed properties that grow worse, become abandoned, fall into disrepair, the value of other homes begins to decline in the neighborhood, and it makes it far more difficult to address this problem in the near or long term. So the \$4 billion in community development block grants is designed to go to those communities and specifically give them help to see to it that these properties can get back on their feet.

The mortgage revenue bonds we are providing here as well, some \$1.5 billion for mortgage revenue bonds, will help people refinance out of the lousy mortgages they got into. It is not as much as I would like, but it will assist people to get a better deal, a better mortgage than the one they have. That does make a difference for some of these people who are trying to come to a different economic circumstance than the one they are in. So it is not insignificant. I would have liked to have seen us do a bit more, but it will make a difference. So there is \$1.6 billion in that area.

Veterans. I want to thank Senators KERRY, AKAKA, SANDERS, and I think Senator COLEMAN as well, if I am not mistaken, who were all involved in trying to do what we could to assist our men and women serving in uniform in Iraq and Afghanistan and who are already under tremendous pressure, to make sure their properties are not foreclosed on underneath them while they are off in a desperate condition serving our country. Whether you agree or disagree with our policies, don't ever blame the soldier, the airman, the marine, the sailor out doing their job, and least of all they shouldn't be losing their homes in the process. So we provided for that in this legislation as well, and I thank my colleagues for those ideas.

We provided as well some assistance here for builders. I had some questions about this, I will be quite candid with my colleagues, and had I been writing this on my own, I am not sure I would have added those provisions. But there were those here who felt strongly about that, both Republicans and Democrats, and wanted to do something in the Tax Code to assist in these losses, to extend them over a longer period of time. It is in the bill. Again, I had some reservations about it, but, as my colleagues know, you don't write these things on your own, and if you are trying to put together a compromise package, the word "compromise" implies that you are going to accept some things you may not like and you are going to have some things tailored back that you want support for.

On Federal Housing Administration modernization, here we have raised the loan limits from \$417,000 to \$550,000. We also require that the downpayments will be as much as 3½ percent. That is a lot more than I would like, candidly. I wanted 1½ percent. But in order to get that additional \$230,000 increase over the loan limits, where some 19 States, I might add, would have been disadvantaged—higher cost States or at least part of their States in higher cost—we had to agree on a compromise here and raising that number to 3½ percent. But that \$550,000 under FHA will make a huge difference for many people who are looking again to refinance or to get mortgages they can afford. So it is a very valuable addition to this bill, and I welcome the opportunity to include that as well.

Those are some of the major provisions of what we have packaged. There will be additional amendments offered on Tuesday that will add to this, some of which or all of which may be adopted either by voice vote or recorded votes, but it is a step again in the right direction. It is action. It is movement on this issue.

Again, as I said, the bill doesn't in any way go far enough, in my view, to help the distressed borrowers, those who are living under the monthly threat of foreclosure, in fact the daily threat of foreclosure on their homes. So it is hardly a final action, but it is a first step and a major step in the right direction.

There was an idea that I had hoped to include in this bill and that I couldn't get agreement to bring as part of the bill. The danger of bringing it up as an amendment, Mr. President, is that I am concerned, because it is complicated, it might not carry, and therefore, with negative votes, it would be harder to bring it back. But as many will tell you here, the effort to try to restructure these mortgages could make a huge difference.

One of the problems we are having, of course, is that capital has seized up. It is not moving. How do you begin to get capital to flow in these markets? One certain way is to get some clear ideas of where the bottom, where the floor is in the residential mortgage market, and that is unclear as I speak. As long as it is unclear where that bottom is, then you are going to find people very reluctant to move capital into this area, or others, for that matter. This problem has spread far beyond the housing issue. It is now into student loans, car loans, and every other aspect of our economy is being affected by this.

So the idea—and it is not a new one; actually, it has been used in the past—is to try to see if we can come up with a scheme that would allow us to reduce or write down the value of these mortgages to some degree, thereby the lender would be getting less than they anticipated when they made the original mortgage, but they would end up getting something rather than a foreclosed property and nothing coming

back. Secondly, the borrower would have to pay the insurance to FHA, which would guarantee this mortgage. They would also have to stay in the home. These residences would have to be owner occupied. It is a voluntary program both for the lender and the borrower. To the extent that value in the property increases, then money would come back to the Federal Government as a result of financing, through insurance, this instrument.

That is a rough idea of what it would do. The real value of it, aside from obviously helping people stay in their homes, is establishing that floor and that bottom. Anyone who is paying any attention to this issue at all will tell you that unless we address that issue—address that issue—we will be back here month after month after month in the coming years dealing with the effects of the problem, and that is money going to our cities to help them make foreclosed properties look better, and we will be doing things we can to help out people to somehow get through all of this. But if you really want to address the issue, then you have to confront the problem, and that is that capital is not moving.

The one thing we can do, of course, is to provide this kind of floor. You need to have enough transactions to determine that, but I believe that if we act quickly enough around here, we can make a difference in that area. And I will hold a hearing on this in the Banking Committee next week. We will have one additional hearing, at the request of Senator SHELBY and others, to examine this issue and fine-tune it. I am pleased a number of people here and outside of this body have indicated very strong support for this idea, cutting across the normal ideological lines that too often divide us, as something we ought to do.

I invite my colleagues to take a good look at this, or their staffs, over the weekend. I will submit, at the end of these remarks, a copy of the bill and its proposals, and I would strongly invite people to take a look at it, and any thoughts and ideas they have to strengthen this or improve it, I welcome. No one is claiming exclusive authorship of this idea. As I mentioned, it was tried during the Great Depression. In those days, the Federal Government actually purchased these very distressed mortgages at a very discounted rate and then arranged for that owner-occupied resident to stay in the home at a new rate. The Government actually made some \$14 million on that program back in the Great Depression. We are not suggesting anything quite like that, although there are some similarities to it as a way of keeping people in their homes.

Anyway, I invite people to look at that idea because I think it does go right to the heart of what we are talking about. There are other ideas as well to try to strengthen this situation, but unless we do something like what I have suggested here, actually dealing

with the 8,000 people a day who are falling into foreclosure, then this problem is only going to grow in its magnitude and the ability to provide some relief for people is going to grow far more expensive than it already is. That is the reason I am urging my colleagues to take a look at this idea to see if we can't, in the coming few days, complete a markup in the committee and then bring a bill to the floor that would really provide some meaningful and direct assistance to those who are facing this problem.

Look, I am not talking about speculators, Mr. President. That is a different crowd altogether. I feel bad that they have lost money, but we bear no moral obligation to help out a speculator. And I am worried about those who should never have gotten into a mortgage in the first place, but there is probably not a lot I can do about them except to help them in some ways.

We are talking about that large constituency in the middle, who were lured into very bad deals, were lured into arrangements they never could afford at the fully indexed rate. You could say they bear some responsibilities for having gone into those deals, and I do not disagree with that, but if you only were going to look at the foreclosed property you might draw that conclusion—we bear no responsibility to deal with the individual caught in those circumstances. But let me make a case to you if you are harboring those thoughts, why you might want to think differently about this. If you live in that neighborhood, if you live next-door or you live down the block or if your child does, in a new home, one they just bought, the value of every other property declines with one foreclosure in a neighborhood. That doesn't help anybody. We are watching housing values decline two consecutive years in a row. This is the first time that has happened since the Great Depression; sales are way off—all the related economic problems associated with a massive downturn in the housing area.

We may have as many as 50 million homes adversely affected by foreclosure. The number of foreclosures could be somewhere between 2.5 and 3 million homes in the country, but the number of homes affected by it is vastly in excess of the number of actual foreclosures. Those numbers on foreclosures may be low. It may be higher than that. We are hoping it will not be. But even if not, the ripple effect is going to be felt by everyone else in the area. If you are harboring the notion I don't care about my neighbor, I am sorry they got themselves into that mess, I feel badly for them, but I don't think we have any obligation to do anything about them at all, I remind you it will affect you—it affects all of us; hence, the necessity to address this issue and do everything we can to keep people in that home if we can.

We are all going to benefit from that. Our economy clearly would also benefit

in a very specific way; people who live within that neighborhood will be benefited by our efforts to try to stabilize this situation and have better financial arrangements for those who otherwise are going to lose their homes.

That is where we are as we complete our business at the conclusion of this week. This bill has been a good week, I would say. This bill is not one that has everything we would like to have in it, but the good news is this: The Senate, for the first time in a year, is comprehensively trying to address this housing crisis. While you may not agree with everything we have done—you may be disappointed, as I am, that we do not have some provisions in here I would like to see included—the fact is we are debating, discussing and coming up with ideas and adopting them, to provide some relief for people in this area, as it should be.

I am grateful to Senator SHELBY, my colleague from Alabama, the former chairman of the Banking Committee. I am very grateful to the majority leader, Senator REID. When I talked to him last week before we came back, we both agreed this was an issue we had to pursue. He agreed and went out and sought out Senator MCCONNELL and created the kind of arrangement that allowed for Senator SHELBY and I to spend over 24 hours to package a proposal that could serve as the core coming forward. So we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the majority leader for insisting this be the debate this week, that we move forward next week and try to conclude our business, get together with the other body and resolve these matters and then come back with other ideas on how we can provide some real relief in this area.

I conclude by thanking him and his staff as well as our own staffs on the Banking Committee who worked through the night to try to come up with some compromises in these areas. It is always difficult to do it when you have 50 Members in a body with very strong ideas on where things ought to be. These people don't often get the recognition they deserve for spending the long hours and putting together these kinds of packages. I am grateful to the Senate Banking staff, Democrats and Republicans, for their efforts. My hope is next week we can conclude this and then come back again with some additional ideas that can truly make a difference.

I thank everyone for their involvement. I know there are several other people who want to come over and be heard on this subject matter, but in their absence, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4406, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding adoption of amendment No. 4406, as modified, the amendment be further modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as further modified, is as follows:

At the end of title VI, insert the following:
SEC. _____. ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT AND R AND D CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 168(k), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT AND R AND D CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a corporation which is an eligible taxpayer (within the meaning of paragraph (4)) for purposes of this subsection elects to have this paragraph apply—

“(i) no additional depreciation shall be allowed under paragraph (1) for any qualified property placed in service during any taxable year to which paragraph (1) would otherwise apply, and

“(ii) the limitations described in subparagraph (B) for such taxable year shall be increased by an aggregate amount not in excess of the bonus depreciation amount for such taxable year.

“(B) LIMITATIONS TO BE INCREASED.—The limitations described in this subparagraph are—

“(i) the limitation under section 38(c), and“(ii) ELIGIBLE QUALIFIED PROPERTY.—For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘eligible qualified property’ means qualified property under paragraph (2), except that in applying paragraph (2) for purposes of this clause—

“(iii) the limitation under section 53(c).

“(C) BONUS DEPRECIATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The bonus depreciation amount for any applicable taxable year is an amount equal to the product of 20 percent and the excess (if any) of—

“(I) the aggregate amount of depreciation which would be determined under this section for property placed in service during the taxable year if no election under this paragraph were made, over

“(II) the aggregate amount of depreciation allowable under this section for property placed in service during the taxable year.

In the case of property which is a passenger aircraft, the amount determined under subclause (I) shall be calculated without regard to the written binding contract limitation under paragraph (2)(A)(iii)(I).

“(ii) ELIGIBLE QUALIFIED PROPERTY.—For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘eligible qualified property’ means qualified property under paragraph (2), except that in applying paragraph (2) for purposes of this clause—

“(I) ‘March 31, 2008’ shall be substituted for ‘December 31, 2007’ each place it appears in subparagraph (A) and clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (E) thereof,

“(II) only adjusted basis attributable to manufacture, construction, or production after March 31, 2008, and before January 1, 2009, shall be taken into account under subparagraph (B)(ii) thereof, and

“(III) in the case of property which is a passenger aircraft, the written binding contract limitation under subparagraph (A)(iii)(I) thereof shall not apply.

“(iii) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The bonus depreciation amount for any applicable taxable year shall not exceed the applicable limitation under clause (iii), reduced (but not

below zero) by the bonus depreciation amount for any preceding taxable year.

“(iv) APPLICABLE LIMITATION.—For purposes of clause (ii), the term ‘applicable limitation’ means, with respect to any eligible taxpayer, the lesser of—

“(I) \$40,000,000, or

“(II) 10 percent of the sum of the amounts determined with respect to the eligible taxpayer under clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (D).

“(v) AGGREGATION RULE.—All corporations which are treated as a single employer under section 52(a) shall be treated as 1 taxpayer for purposes of applying the limitation under this subparagraph and determining the applicable limitation under clause (iii).

“(D) ALLOCATION OF BONUS DEPRECIATION AMOUNTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), the taxpayer shall, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe, specify the portion (if any) of the bonus depreciation amount which is to be allocated to each of the limitations described in subparagraph (B).

“(ii) BUSINESS CREDIT LIMITATION.—The portion of the bonus depreciation amount allocated to the limitation described in subparagraph (B)(i) shall not exceed an amount equal to the portion of the credit allowable under section 38 for the taxable year which is allocable to business credit carryforwards to such taxable year which are—

“(I) from taxable years beginning before January 1, 2006, and

“(II) properly allocable (determined under the rules of section 38(d)) to the research credit determined under section 41(a).

“(iii) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX CREDIT LIMITATION.—The portion of the bonus depreciation amount allocated to the limitation described in subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not exceed an amount equal to the portion of the minimum tax credit allowable under section 53 for the taxable year which is allocable to the adjusted minimum tax imposed for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2006.

“(E) CREDIT REFUNDABLE.—Any aggregate increases in the credits allowed under section 38 or 53 by reason of this paragraph shall, for purposes of this title, be treated as a credit allowed to the taxpayer under subpart C of part IV of subchapter A.

“(F) OTHER RULES.—

“(i) ELECTION.—Any election under this paragraph (including any allocation under subparagraph (D)) may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(ii) DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING MINIMUM TAX.—Notwithstanding this paragraph, paragraph (2)(G) shall apply with respect to the deduction computed under this section (after application of this paragraph) with respect to property placed in service during any applicable taxable year.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2007, in taxable years ending after such date.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM DICKINSON

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Congressman

William Dickinson, who passed away on Monday, March 31, 2008. Bill was a skilled legislator and a personal friend, and along with the entire State of Alabama, I mourn his passing.

William Dickinson was born on June 5, 1925, in Opelika, AL. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and as a Major in the United States Air Force Reserves. In 1950, he obtained a law degree from the University of Alabama. He then practiced law for 2 years. In 1952, Bill began his career as an elected official, serving as a judge in city, juvenile, and circuit courts in Lee County. After his successful career as a judge, Bill was an executive for the Southern Railway. Bill also served on the Opelika Board of Education.

When Bill was elected to Congress in 1964, most of his constituents had never before been represented by a Republican. Nevertheless, Bill was elected to 14 consecutive terms in office and was a pivotal force in Alabama's change into a two-party State. While in office, Congressman Dickinson accomplished a great deal for his district, the State of Alabama, and our Nation.

He worked tirelessly for the 13 counties in his congressional district, particularly on military matters. As ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, Bill was able to protect and strengthen the military bases in Alabama. He was a steamroller in military funding issues for the Air War College at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, and Gunter Annex in Montgomery, AL, and also further south in Alabama at Fort Rucker, where Army helicopter pilots go through their training. His exemplary work in this area improved both the economy of our State and the security of our Nation.

Bill's work for the military also extended to the national level. He was very influential in the rearming of America during the Cold War, working to stop the spread of communism and providing the military with the programs and equipment they needed during the Vietnam war. Bill is credited both with the creation of the Aviation Department in the Department of the Army and for the Apache Attack Helicopter program. In fact, Bill was nicknamed the “Father of Army Aviation” due to his advocacy on behalf of those issues.

His work garnered the attention of the American Conservative Union, which presented him with the Statesman Award; the Army Aviation Association of America, which awarded him with its Congressional Appreciation Award; and the Association of the United States Army, which presented William with the Distinguished Service to Soldiers award, among others.

Bill is loved and will be missed by his wife Barbara, his four children and his five grandchildren. He was an inspiration to many and will be remembered for his service to our Nation. I ask the entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of our colleague, Congressman William Dickinson.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING HOLY FAMILY RESIDENCE

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Holy Family Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Scranton, PA, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

The Holy Family Residence has served the elderly poor of Scranton for the past century with loving care and devotion. All of the devoted caregivers ensure that the guests of Holy Family Residence receive the physical, social, and spiritual care advocated by Blessed Jeanne Jugan, the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor. In fact, all of the sisters have taken a vow of hospitality to care for their impoverished neighbors. Not only do the guests of the Little Sisters of the Poor enjoy a true sense of belonging through recreational and social activities and responsibility for certain daily tasks, but the guests also receive hospitality in the form of physical comfort and compassionate healthcare.

The current staff of Holy Family Residence consists of ten Little Sisters of the Poor and 90 full and part-time employees. These devoted individuals offer skilled nursing care to 52 elderly residents and also operate apartment-style living for another 22 disadvantaged senior citizens. All of those under the care of Holy Family Residence are eligible for Medicaid. In spite of such financial difficulties, these residents can enjoy peace of mind and compassion through the charitable efforts of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the dedicated caregivers at Holy Family. It is with great pride that I congratulate Holy Family Residence for its 100 years of service to the elderly poor of Scranton. I hope that the Little Sisters of the Poor may continue their good works in Scranton for many years to come and that they might inspire others to show the same care toward their neighbors.●

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WRESTLING TEAM

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here today to honor the University of Iowa wrestling team. The Hawkeye wrestlers won their 21st NCAA championship on March 22, 2008 in St. Louis. It was the first national championship for the Hawkeyes since 2000, and it shows that Iowa's great wrestling tradition continues. Under the tutelage of former Hawkeye great Tom Brands, the Iowa squad won its 32nd Big Ten conference title with a perfect 8-0 record. They had an overall dual record of 21-1.

Iowa crowned two individual national champions in St. Louis, Brent Metcalf and Mark Perry. Metcalf had an incredible season for the black and gold and was named Outstanding Wrestler at the Big Ten and NCAA Championships, and at the Division I NWCA/Cliff Keen Na-

tional Duals. Metcalf was named Big Ten Wrestler of the Year, and most recently was awarded the Dan Hodge Trophy which recognizes the top college wrestler each year. Perry won the second national championship of his college career. He was also named an All-American for the fourth time. A senior, Perry compiled an overall record of 96-16, and a 20-3 record this season. They also had seven athletes named All-Americans, Metcalf, Perry, Jay Borschel, Matt Fields, Charlie Falck, Phillip Keddy and Joe Slaton.

Coach Brands was named National Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year and Big Ten Coach of the Year.

Iowans also celebrated the Hawkeyes' success on April 3, which Governor Culver proclaimed "University of Iowa Wrestling Day" in our State.

I am proud to recognize the Iowa Hawkeye wrestling team, along with Coach Tom Brands and his outstanding staff, for winning the Division I Wrestling National Team Championship.●

HONORING DR. PHILIP MASON

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize the efforts of Dr. Philip P. Mason, widely regarded as one of Michigan's most distinguished living historians, on the opening of the 50th Annual Conference on Local History; "Michigan in Perspective." This conference, which Dr. Mason founded in 1958 and continued to organize and nurture for a half century, is one of our Nation's most outstanding historical gatherings, appealing to historians of all ranks. Dr. Mason's efforts throughout the years to preserve, promote, and facilitate the use of historical records is, indeed, an important endeavor.

Dr. Mason graduated from Boston University with a degree in liberal arts in 1951, and subsequently moved to Michigan to pursue a master's, and ultimately a doctorate, in history from the University of Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, he served as Michigan's State Archivist from 1953 to 1958.

In 1958, Dr. Mason launched a long and distinguished career at Wayne State University as a professor of history. That same year, he founded the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs and served as its director until he retired in 1992 to return to teaching. By 1992, the Labor Archives had grown to become the official depository for the inactive records of nine international labor unions, including the United Auto Workers, Service Employees International Union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Airline Pilots, American Federation of Teachers, and the United Farm Workers.

The archives also preserved and made available to researchers the historical files of several thousand labor leaders, reformers, and prominent community leaders. In May 1975, the new Walter Reuther Library opened on the Wayne

State University campus. By the end of his tenure as director, the library had become one of the major research centers in the world and an integral part of the research of hundreds of scholars, writers, film producers, and other researchers.

Dr. Mason was promoted to full professor in the department of history in 1966. He also became professor of library and information science in 1993 and his popular archives curriculum educated and inspired hundreds of young professional archivists. In 1990, Wayne State University named Dr. Mason a distinguished professor of history, a rank he retained until his retirement in 2006. Throughout his career, he received numerous awards, including the Alumni Faculty Service Award in 2005, the President's Exceptional Service Award in 2001, and the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award in 1985.

During his career as an archivist, he assisted many institutions, including Penn State University, Georgia State University, the University of Texas at Austin, and San Francisco State University to establish their labor archives. He was the major consultant to the AFL-CIO in establishing the George Meany Archives at Silver Spring. He also assisted 15 other international unions to set up archives and records management programs.

Dr. Mason played an active role as a member of at least seven professional societies ranging from the American Association of State and Local History to the Michigan Historical Society. From 1986 to the present he served as co-editor of Wayne State's award-winning Great Lakes Books Series, and in 1992, he became the editor of Michigan State University Press' Henry R. Schoolcraft series. He authored or co-authored eight books including "Rum Running and the Roaring Twenties," 1995, "The Ambassador Bridge," 1987, and Tracy W. McGregor: Humanitarian, Philanthropist and Detroit Civic Leader," 2008.

In addition to authoring and contributing to numerous other articles and television series, Dr. Mason has traveled for decades giving popular presentations that broaden the appreciation of Michiganders of their colorful Michigan heritage. And, along the way, Dr. Phil Mason has selflessly befriended, assisted, and inspired hundreds of young scholars to carve out careers in local history.

I know my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Philip Mason. I wish him continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO WALLY BRONNER

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wish to honor a remarkable man from Michigan, Wally Bronner, who passed away on April 1, 2008, at the age of 81. As the founder of BRONNER'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND in Frankenmuth, he embodied the spirit of Christmas.

I had the privilege of visiting Wally at his store and it was an amazing experience. His enthusiasm and passion were contagious. He was truly an ambassador for the community of Frankenmuth and the State of Michigan, throughout our country and the world. It is hard to think of Christmas without thinking about Wally Bronner. BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND is truly one of a kind and provides visitors with the opportunity to experience different cultures and Christmas traditions from around the world.

Wally Bronner was born and raised in Frankenmuth, MI. He started a sign painting business while in high school and then decorated window displays for a local hardware store. Several merchants approached him about providing them with Christmas decorations and that was the beginning of what has now become BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND, which sits on 45 acres of land with a shipping department that is the size of 5½ football fields and a chapel.

Wally had a deep faith in God and was passionate about giving back to the community. His generosity has been felt in Frankenmuth and beyond. The Walter and Irene Bronner and Family Foundation, which he founded, has made many special things happen for the community, including a new auditorium at Frankenmuth High School and "Operation Sparkle" that provided the equipment needed to clean up Saginaw.

BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND will continue to delight people of all ages across the world, but Wally's presence will surely be missed. I want to express my deepest sympathies to his wife Irene Bronner and his children Carla Spletzer, Maria Sutorik and Wayne Bronner. Frankenmuth, the State of Michigan and Christmas lovers everywhere are forever indebted to Wally Bronner.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4847. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4847. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DODD):

S. 2822. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a section of that Act relating to exportation or importation of natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1963, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow bonds guaranteed by the Federal home loan banks to be treated as tax exempt bonds.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2485

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2485, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2709

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2709, a bill to increase the criminal penalties for illegally reentering the United States and for other purposes.

S. 2717

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2717, a bill to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2719

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2719, a bill to provide that Executive Order 13166 shall have no force or effect, and to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to

address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

S. 2774

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2774, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 2785

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2785, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Security Act to preserve access to physicians' services under the Medicare program.

S. 2821

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2821, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the limited continuation of clean energy production incentives and incentives to improve energy efficiency in order to prevent a downturn in these sectors that would result from a lapse in the tax law.

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2821, *supra*.

S. RES. 495

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 495, a resolution designating April 2008 as "Financial Literacy Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 4382

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4382 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4384

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4384 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon

emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4387

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4387 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4399

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4399 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4406

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4406 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4414

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4414 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4419

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4419 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4421

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4421 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4423

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4423 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DODD):

S. 2822. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a section of that Act relating to exportation or importation of natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, along with Senator CLINTON, Senator LIEBERMAN, and Senator DODD, I am introducing legislation that will correct a fundamental wrong perpetrated in the 2005 that allowed Federal bureaucracy to override local control by placing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the primary role of siting Liquefied Natural Gas, LNG, terminals. That action, taken in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, took what had historically always been a state government responsibility—the permitting of LNG storage terminals—and handed it off to a Federal agency in Washington, DC—FERC.

At the time, 45 Senators went on record saying that cutting State siting agencies out of the LNG siting process was a bad idea and the history of FERC's actions since then have borne us out.

Right now, in Oregon, we have three separate LNG proposals pending before FERC. Together, they would have a combined capacity of 3.3 billion cubic feet, BCF, of gas per day. Oregon and Washington, together, only use 1.33 BCF per day. Yet, FERC categorically refuses to address the basic question of whether the three proposed facilities are even needed to serve our market. FERC also refuses to consider whether any of the three publicly announced interstate pipeline proposals to bring natural gas to Oregon from the Rocky Mountains would be a better option. In fact, FERC asserts that it's not its job to determine which, if any, of these proposals best serves our market. FERC also asserts that it has no obligation to determine which of these proposals—and the hundreds of miles of pipelines that would cut through forest lands, farms, vineyards, and residential neighborhoods to connect them to the interstate pipeline system—has the least environmental impact to our State and our citizens' private property.

To make matters worse, FERC's insistence that each of these projects is a separate, unrelated project has produced a bureaucratic nightmare of competing public meetings, scoping hearings, and filing requirements for each project. Letters from local officials to FERC asking legitimate questions about impacts on local land use don't get answered. They simply get filed, because that's what the FERC process is set up to do—to process paper and not address real concerns.

The end result is a public process in which the public has no due process and no assurance that their concerns will be heard, much less addressed.

At every turn, FERC's LNG siting process in Oregon has defied common sense and public accountability. It is a process divorced from the real world questions that need to be answered. The situation in other parts of the country is no different.

It's time to restore the local and State role in these critical decisions about in whose backyard a pipeline or

LNG plant will be built. It is time to reverse the ill-considered decision Congress made in 2005 when it overrode State and local decision-making to put a Federal bureaucracy in charge of LNG siting authority. This bill would do exactly that.

I am pleased that Senator CLINTON is joining me in sponsoring this important legislation to give States and local communities a say in where LNG facilities and pipelines should be built. I urge colleagues to join me in sponsoring the bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2822

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPORTATION OR IMPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 311 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58; 119 Stat. 685) is repealed.

(b) APPLICATION.—The Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.) shall be applied and administered as if section 311 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (and the amendments made by the section) had not been enacted.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4427. Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4428. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4429. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. KYL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4419 proposed by Mr. ENSIGN to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 4430. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4431. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4432. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4433. Mrs. LINCOLN (for Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 4434. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. OBAMA)

submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4435. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4436. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4437. Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4427. Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new techniques, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 82, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of section 165(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not apply to losses described in section 165(c)(3) of such Code which arise in the tornado disaster area on or after January 1, 2007, and before April 1, 2008, and which are attributable to tornados.

(b) TORNADO DISASTER AREA.—For purposes of this Act, the term “tornado disaster area” means any area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act on or after January 1, 2007, and before April 1, 2008, by reason of damage attributable to tornados.

SA 4428. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 50, line 23, strike “\$4,000,000,000” and insert “\$3,900,000,000”.

On page 58, line 10, strike “\$100,000,000” and all that follows through “2008” on line 11, and insert the following: “\$200,000,000, to remain available until December 31, 2008”.

SA 4429. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. KYL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4419 proposed by Mr. ENSIGN to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation, as follows:

Beginning on page 2, line 14, strike all through page 6, line 13, and insert the following:

SEC. 811. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION OF CREDIT.—Each of the following provisions of section 45(d) (relating to qualified facilities) is amended by striking “January 1, 2009” and inserting “January 1, 2011”:

- (1) Paragraph (1).
- (2) Clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(A).
- (3) Clauses (i)(I) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A).
- (4) Paragraph (4).
- (5) Paragraph (5).
- (6) Paragraph (6).
- (7) Paragraph (7).
- (8) Paragraph (8).
- (9) Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (9).

(b) PRODUCTION CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM MARINE RENEWABLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 45(c) (relating to resources) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(I) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.”

(2) MARINE RENEWABLES.—Subsection (c) of section 45 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy’ means energy derived from—

“(i) waves, tides, and currents in oceans, estuaries, and tidal areas,

“(ii) free flowing water in rivers, lakes, and streams,

“(iii) free flowing water in an irrigation system, canal, or other man-made channel, including projects that utilize nonmechanical structures to accelerate the flow of water for electric power production purposes, or

“(iv) differentials in ocean temperature (ocean thermal energy conversion).

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Such term shall not include any energy which is derived from any source which utilizes a dam, diversionary structure (except as provided in subparagraph (A)(iii)), or impoundment for electric power production purposes.”

(3) DEFINITION OF FACILITY.—Subsection (d) of section 45 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES.—In the case of a facility producing electricity from marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy, the term ‘qualified facility’ means any facility owned by the taxpayer—

“(A) which has a nameplate capacity rating of at least 150 kilowatts, and

“(B) which is originally placed in service on or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and before January 1, 2011.”

(4) CREDIT RATE.—Subparagraph (A) of section 45(b)(4) is amended by striking “or (9)” and inserting “(9), or (11)”.

(5) COORDINATION WITH SMALL IRRIGATION POWER.—Paragraph (5) of section 45(d), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by striking “January 1, 2011” and inserting “the date of the enactment of paragraph (11)”.

(c) SALES OF ELECTRICITY TO REGULATED PUBLIC UTILITIES TREATED AS SALES TO UNRELATED PERSONS.—Section 45(e)(4) (relating to related persons) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “A taxpayer shall be treated as selling electricity to an unrelated person if such electricity is sold to a regulated public utility (as defined in section 7701(a)(33)).”

(e) REDUCTION OF CREDIT FOR WIND ENERGY.—Section 45(b)(4)(A) is amended by inserting “(1),” before “(3)”.

(f) TRASH FACILITY CLARIFICATION.—Paragraph (7) of section 45(d) is amended—

(1) by striking “facility which burns” and inserting “facility (other than a facility described in paragraph (6)) which uses”; and

(2) by striking “COMBUSTION”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) EXTENSION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to property originally placed in service after December 31, 2008.

(2) MODIFICATIONS.—The amendments made by subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) shall apply to electricity produced and sold after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

(3) TRASH FACILITY CLARIFICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (f) shall apply to electricity produced and sold before, on, or after December 31, 2007.

SA 4430. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation, as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 204. ENHANCEMENT OF PROTECTIONS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS RELATING TO MORTGAGES AND MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES.

(a) TREATMENT OF MORTGAGES AS OBLIGATIONS SUBJECT TO INTEREST RATE LIMITATION.—Section 207 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 527) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “in excess of 6 percent” the second place it appears and all that follows and inserting “in excess of 6 percent—

“(A) during the period of military service and one year thereafter, in the case of an obligation or liability consisting of a mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage; or

“(B) during the period of military service, in the case of any other obligation or liability.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INTEREST.—The term ‘interest’ includes service charges, renewal charges, fees, or any other charges (except bona fide insurance) with respect to an obligation or liability.

“(2) OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY.—The term ‘obligation or liability’ includes an obligation or liability consisting of a mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF PROTECTIONS AGAINST MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES.—

(1) EXTENSION OF PROTECTION PERIOD.—Subsection (c) of section 303 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 533) is amended by striking “90 days” and inserting “one year”.

(2) EXTENSION OF STAY OF PROCEEDINGS PERIOD.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking “90 days” and inserting “one year”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4431. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 204. PAYMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF BAGGAGE AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO RELOCATE DUE TO FORECLOSURE OF LEASED HOUSING.

Section 406 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection (k):

“(k) A member of the armed forces who relocates from leased or rental housing by reason of the foreclosure of such housing is entitled to transportation of baggage and household effects under subsection (b)(1) in the same manner, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as similarly circumstanced members entitled to transportation of baggage and household effects under that subsection.”.

SA 4432. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFINITION OF ANNUAL INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 8 AND OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS.

Section 3(b)(4) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(3)(b)(4)) is amended by inserting “or any deferred Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts” before “may not be considered”.

SA 4433. Mrs. LINCOLN (for Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; as follows:

On page 70, strike lines 14 through 22 and insert the following:

“(A) INCREASE FOR 2008.—In the case of calendar year 2008, the State ceiling for each State shall be increased by an amount equal to the greater of—

“(i) \$10,000,000,000 multiplied by a fraction—

“(I) the numerator of which is the population of such State, and

“(II) the denominator of which is the total population of all States, or

“(ii) the amount determined under subparagraph (B).

“(B) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount determined under this subparagraph is—

“(i) in the case of a State (other than a possession), \$90,300,606, and

“(ii) in the case of a possession of the United States with a population less than the least populous State (other than a possession), the product of—

“(I) a fraction the numerator of which is \$90,300,606 and the denominator of which is population of the least populous State (other than a possession), and

“(II) the population of such possession.

In the case of any possession of the United States not described in clause (ii), the amount determined under this subparagraph shall be zero.

“(C) SET ASIDE.—

SA 4434. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. OBAMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 58, line 10, strike “\$100,000,000” and insert “\$137,500,000”.

On page 58, line 17, strike the period and insert the following: “: Provided, That, of such amounts \$37,500,000 shall be used by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (referred to in this section as the ‘NRC’) to (1) make grants to counseling intermediaries approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the NRC to hire attorneys trained and capable of assisting homeowners of owner-occupied homes with mortgages in default, in danger of default, or subject to or at risk of foreclosure who have legal issues that cannot be handled by counselors already employed by such intermediaries, and (2) support NRC partnerships with State and local legal organizations and organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of that Code with demonstrated relevant legal experience in home foreclosure law, as such experience is determined by the Chief Executive Officer of NRC: Provided further, That for the purpose of the prior proviso the term ‘relevant experience’ means experience representing homeowners in negotiations and or legal proceedings aimed at preventing or mitigating foreclosure or providing legal research and technical legal expertise to community based organizations whose goal is to reduce, prevent, or mitigate foreclosure: Provided further, That of the amounts provided for in the prior provisos the NRC shall give priority consideration to counseling intermediaries and legal organizations that (1) provide legal assistance in the 100 metropolitan statistical areas (as defined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget) with the highest home foreclosure rates, and (2) have the capacity to begin using the financial assistance within 90 days after receipt of the assistance.”.

On page 58, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

SEC. 302. LEGAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO HOME OWNERSHIP PRESERVATION AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated and there is appropriated to the Legal Services Corporation \$37,500,000 to provide legal assistance related to home ownership preservation, home foreclosure prevention, and tenancy associated with home foreclosure.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Such funds shall remain available until expended.

(b) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—Each limitation on expenditures, and each term or condition, that applies to funds appropriated to the Legal Services Corporation under the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, shall apply to funds appropriated to the Corporation under subsection (a), except as provided in subsections (a)(1) and (c).

(c) PRIORITY.—In providing financial assistance from the funds appropriated under subsection (a), the Corporation shall give priority to eligible entities and individuals that—

(1) provide legal assistance in the 100 metropolitan statistical areas (as defined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget) with the highest home foreclosure rates; and

(2) have the capacity to begin using the financial assistance within 90 days after receipt of the assistance.

SEC. 303. EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.

For purposes of Senate enforcement, sections 301 and 302 are designated as emergency requirements and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concur-

rent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

SA 4435. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VIII—HOME OWNERSHIP MADE EASIER ACT

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Home Ownership Made Easier Act” or the “HOME Act”.

SEC. 802. SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 502(h) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(h)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) INCOME LIMITS FOR ELIGIBLE BORROWERS.—To be eligible to receive a guaranteed loan pursuant to this subsection, the income of a borrower—

“(A) shall not exceed the current 4-person household limit, as defined by the Secretary, for a borrower living in a 1 to 4 person household;

“(B) shall not exceed the current 8-person household limit, as defined by the Secretary, for a borrower living in a 5 to 8 person household; and

“(C) shall not exceed the current household limits for households greater than 8 persons, as defined by the Secretary, for a borrower living in a household of more than 8 persons.”;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B);

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(D) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting the following “having a population of not more than 40,000.”;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking “1 percent” and inserting “2 percent”;

(4) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:

“(9) REFINANCING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any loan guaranteed under this subsection or any loan not guaranteed under this section, but which is owed by an individual who would qualify as an eligible borrower under paragraph (3) on a residence that would qualify under paragraph (4), may be refinanced or extended for any of the following purposes:

“(i) To pay off any other loan (including a first or second purchase mortgage) not made or guaranteed under this section.

“(ii) To repair mechanical or structural deficiencies to the residence of the borrower, provided that such repairs are made under the supervision of an eligible lender, as that term is defined in paragraph (6).

“(iii) To pay for closing costs as may be authorized by the Secretary, which shall include a discount not to exceed 200 basis points and an origination fee not to exceed 100 basis points. For each 100 basis points of

discount, there shall be a minimum corresponding reduction of a 50 basis points in the maximum note rate, as defined by the Secretary, charged to the borrower.

“(iv) To allow the borrower to consolidate the debts of the borrower up to the greater of \$10,000 or 10 percent of the loan amount, provided that such amounts shall be disbursed by the settlement agent at the time of the loan closing.

“(v) For any other purpose, and under such terms and conditions, as the Secretary shall prescribe.

“(B) LIMITATION.—Any loan described under subparagraph (A) may not be refinanced or extended for an additional amount or term which exceeds the limitations under this subsection.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) ELIGIBILITY NOT DEPENDENT ON QUALIFYING UNDER OTHER HOUSING PROGRAMS.—In no event or circumstance shall an otherwise eligible borrower be denied a loan or loan guarantee under this section solely because such borrower is not eligible (or is eligible and has not applied for) assistance under any other loan, housing, housing assistance, or other housing related program administered, in whole or in part, by the Federal Government.

“(16) AUTHORITY TO HIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Secretary, in his or her discretion, may hire such additional administrative full-time personnel as is necessary to carry out the administration of the guaranteed loan program established under this subsection.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—There are appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2008—

(1) \$1,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for gross obligations for the principal amount of guaranteed loans as authorized under section 502(h) of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund under section 517 of such Act; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to the Secretary of Agriculture to hire additional staff as authorized under section 502(h)(16).

SEC. 803. INCOME ADJUSTMENTS FOR MINORS, STUDENTS, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 501(b)(5)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471(b)(5)(A)) is amended by inserting before the period the following: “, except that for purposes of this title the mandatory exclusion amount for minors, students, and persons with disabilities under the definition of adjusted income shall be \$2,400”.

SA 4436. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 61, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

“(iii) If the loan is an adjustable rate mortgage that includes an initial fixed interest rate—

“(I) state in conspicuous type size and format the following phrase: This loan is an adjustable rate mortgage with an initial fixed interest rate. Your initial fixed interest rate is AAA with a monthly payment of BBB until CCC. After that date, the interest rate on your loan will ‘reset’ to an adjustable rate and both your interest rate and payment could go higher on that date and in the future. For example, if your initial fixed rate ended today, your new adjustable interest rate would be DDD and your new payment EEE. If interest rates are one percent higher than they are today or at some point in the future, your new payment would be FFF. There is no guarantee you will be able to refinance your loan to a lower interest rate and payment before your initial fixed interest rate ends;.”

“(II) the blank AAA in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the initial fixed interest rate;

“(III) the blank BBB in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the payment amount under the initial fixed interest rate;

“(IV) the blank CCC in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the loan reset date;

“(V) the blank DDD in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the adjustable rate as if the initial rate expired on the date of disclosure under subparagraph (B);

“(VI) the blank EEE in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the payment under the adjustable rate as if the initial rate expired on the date of disclosure under subparagraph (B); and

“(VII) the blank FFF in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the payment under the adjustable rate as if index rate on which the adjustable rate was one percent higher than of the date of disclosure under subparagraph (B).

“(iv) If the loan contains a prepayment penalty—

“(I) state in conspicuous type and format the following phrase: This loan contains a prepayment penalty. If you desire to pay off this loan before GGG, you will pay a penalty of HHH;.”

“(II) the blank GGG in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the date the prepayment penalty expires; and

“(III) the blank HHH in subparagraph (I) to be filled in with the prepayment penalty amount.

SA 4437. Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 6 . MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO QUALIFIED VETERANS' MORTGAGE BONDS.

(a) INCREASED LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 143(l)(3)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) ALASKA, OREGON, AND WISCONSIN.—In the case of the following States, the State veterans limit for any calendar year is the amount equal to—

“(I) \$100,000,000 for the State of Alaska,

“(II) \$100,000,000 for the State of Oregon, and

“(III) \$100,000,000 for the State of Wisconsin.”.

(2) REPEAL OF PHASEIN.—Section 143(l)(3)(B) of such Code is amended by striking clause (iii).

(b) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED VETERAN.—Paragraph (4) of section 143(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(4) QUALIFIED VETERAN.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified veteran’ means any veteran—

“(A) who served on active duty, and

“(B) who applied for the financing before the date 25 years after the last date on which such veteran left active service.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to bonds issued after December 31, 2007.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 570 and H.R. 1011, to designate additional National Forest System lands in the State of Virginia as wilderness or a wilderness study area, to designate the Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area for eventual incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness, to establish the Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, to provide for the development of trail plans for the wilderness areas and scenic areas, and for other purposes; S. 758 and H.R. 1311, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility; S. 1680, to provide for the inclusion of certain non-Federal land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; S. 2109, to designate certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, as wilderness, to designate certain river segments in Riverside County as a wild, scenic, or recreational river, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and for other purposes; S. 2124, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge

National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery; and S. 2581, to designate as wilderness additional National Forest System lands in the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 2008 first quarter Mass Mailings is Friday, April 25, 2008. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states ‘none.’

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Public Records Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records Office at (202) 224-0322.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, the RECORD remain open until 1:30 p.m. for the introduction of bills, statements, and cosponsorships.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, April 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there then be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3221, the vehicle for the housing debate, and that Senators have until 3 p.m. Monday to file first-degree amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be no rollcall votes during Monday's session of the Senate. However, Senators should be prepared to vote Tuesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 7, 2008, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:40 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 7, 2008, at 2 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING EASTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, today I am very pleased to introduce a bill that will authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to help communities in eastern New Mexico develop the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, ENMRWS. A companion to this bill is being introduced today in the Senate by my colleagues Senator BINGAMAN and Senator DOMENICI. There has long been a recognized need for a reliable and safe supply of potable water for eastern New Mexico. After years of drought and ever-increasing population growth, this water supply project is now absolutely critical for the continued economic well-being of Curry, Roosevelt, and Quay counties in eastern New Mexico.

The Entrada and the Southern High Plains, or Ogallala, aquifers currently provide 100 percent of the municipal and industrial water supplies and the vast majority of agricultural water for communities in these east-central New Mexico counties. However, both the quantity and quality of these ground water reserves have declined severely in recent decades. Despite voluntary conservation efforts and improvements in agricultural water-use efficiencies, these ground water supplies will not sustain current use levels in as little as 12 years, and may be functionally depleted within 25 years.

The water supply project authorized by this legislation builds upon more than 40 years of research, planning, and design. In 1959, after recognizing the water supply problems in eastern New Mexico, the New Mexico Legislature and Interstate Stream passed an Act authorizing the State Engineer to construct a dam on the Canadian River, thus establishing the the Reservoir. Since 1966, numerous congressionally-authorized studies have investigated the feasibility of a project that would utilize the Ute Reservoir as a reliable water supply for communities in eastern New Mexico. Finally, in the late 1990s, several communities, concerned about the increasingly urgent need, came together to begin planning for the development of a regional water system.

The Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Authority, consisting of nine communities in the Curry, Roosevelt and Quay counties of eastern New Mexico, was formed in 2001 to oversee the development of the ENMRWS. This authority has expeditiously and effectively finalized the studies and planning necessary to move forward with this project.

Madam Speaker, as you can see from this brief history, the citizens of eastern New Mexico have both proven the critical need and completed the necessary steps to form the basis for a project of this magnitude. This project is not new, and the need for water is

becoming increasingly more urgent. In fact, I introduced this bill with my New Mexico Colleagues in the Senate in both the 108th and 109th Congresses. In the 108th Congress the Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power in the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing on the bill, which I understand brought out some very positive support and feedback. Since that time, the need for this project has only become greater and support for the venture has continued to increase in the local communities and State government.

Without this project, it is clear that this important region will suffer economically. We cannot stand by and watch vibrant communities dissolve into western ghost towns, especially when solutions exist. I sincerely hope my colleagues will support this legislation and help provide a positive, long-term solution to a pressing water need in the rural West. This legislation represents the important next step toward addressing the overarching issue of water in the and West.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING CREATION OF REFUGEE POPULATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, on April 1st, the House of Representatives approved an important piece of legislation, H. Res. 185, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the creation of refugee populations in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region. I was proud to support the passage of this legislation because it recognized all those who have suffered during this long-standing conflict. For the first time in my memory, the House of Representatives has gone on record to say that the refugee population in the Middle East is not simply comprised of Palestinians, it is also the 850,000 Jews who have been displaced from Arab countries since the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948. The U.S.-led roadmap to peace specifically calls for an "agreed, just, fair, and realistic solution to the refugee issue;" and in my opinion, and in the unanimous and united opinion of this House, that means Jewish and non-Jewish refugees alike.

Throughout my tenure in the United States Congress, I have seen the U.S. act as a stalwart champion of human rights, and I have seen this House stand up and voice concerns about the treatment of refugees and minorities, as well as concerns on violations of basic human rights throughout the Middle East and elsewhere. As the U.S. continues to play a pivotal role in seeking an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, I urge my colleagues to continue to speak out and re-

mind the world that we must not overlook the Jewish refugee problem in our enthusiasm for peace.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to further this important effort.

DEDICATION OF THE KATHLEEN SAVAGE BROWNING MINIATURES COLLECTION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, a new educational collection will be unveiled and celebrated at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center in Maysville, Kentucky.

Chicago's Art Institute and England's Queen Mary's Dolls' House are among the few places in the world where visitors can enjoy expansive collections of miniature buildings and artifacts and Maysville's Kentucky Gateway Museum Center now joins these distinguished institutions. The 3,300 square foot Miniatures Gallery at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center is now home to an unrivaled collection of thousands of 1/12 scale miniatures thanks to a generous donation from Maysville native and resident Kaye Browning. The collection features historic buildings, homes and monuments, including the ancestral home of Lady Diana Spencer, the Fleece Inn in England and the Cox Building in Maysville.

This collection has been a passion of Ms. Browning's for over thirty years. Her donation to the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center represents a substantial investment in the community and is certain to bring many visitors, both young and old, to Maysville to experience this world-class collection and gallery. I thank Ms. Browning for her incredible gift to the museum and for her tremendous dedication to Maysville and the entire region. I want to thank Lou Browning, her husband and partner in this endeavor and the staff and supporters of the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center who have made it a leader in telling the story of our Commonwealth.

THE INFANT CRIB SAFETY ACT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Infant Crib Safety Act.

I originally introduced this legislation in 1999 at the request of the Danny Foundation, a national nonprofit organization established after the tragic death of Danny Lineweaver of Alamo, Calif. At the age of 23 months, Danny was injured while trying to climb out of his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

crib. He caught his shirt on a decorative knob on the corner post of his crib and hanged himself. Though his mother was able to perform CPR the moment she found him, Danny lived in a semi-comatose state for nine years and died in 1993.

But Danny Lineweaver's parents are by no means the only ones to face this heart-breaking and preventable tragedy. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, more than 12,300 infants and children are hospitalized—and more than 40 children die—each year as a result of injuries from unsafe cribs. These children include Amaya Jade Dumar, a 2-month-old who died of asphyxiation when she was caught in the gap between the crib railing and the side of her crib, and Garrett Davis, a 4-month-old who died at his grandparents' home when he became wedged between an added mattress and the vinyl side of his mesh crib.

Madam Speaker, cribs are the only juvenile products manufactured expressly for leaving children unattended, and the design and construction of cribs must ensure that parents can have confidence that a crib is a safe place to leave an infant. Existing CPSC mandatory standards, as well as voluntary crib safety guidelines, have been effective in addressing most safety hazards associated with new cribs. The CPSC estimates that these standards prevent hundreds of deaths annually. However, these standards and guidelines apply only to new cribs, not to the sale or commercial use of second-hand and hand-me-down cribs. Secondhand cribs, many of which predate stringent federal safety standards and have been subsequently recalled, are responsible for the majority of crib-related infant injuries and deaths.

Used cribs can have any number of dangerous features. Missing or broken parts, excessive wobble between slats, poorly fitting crib sheets, inadequate mattress support, and faulty latches that do not prevent unintentional crib collapse all pose serious risks to infant safety. Nearly 4 million infants are born in the United States each year, but it is estimated that only 1 to 2 million new cribs are sold. This means that millions of infants are being placed in potentially unsafe used cribs. Secondhand cribs can persist for years in the secondary market in thrift and resale stores. Many hotels and motels continue to use second hand cribs that do not meet current safety standards established by CPSC.

In 2007 alone, more than 1.5 million cribs were recalled. It is vital to ensure that these potentially dangerous products are removed from the stream of commerce. Twelve States, including my home State of California, have already adopted legislation that would make it illegal to manufacture or sell a crib that does not meet current safety standards. But children in every State deserve this basic protection.

The Infant Crib Safety Act will save lives, and give peace of mind to the millions of parents who place their infants in cribs every single day.

This legislation will accomplish four main objectives to keep our children and infants safe. First, it will bar crib makers from manufacturing, and commercial users from selling, products that do not meet the most up-to-date safety standards, including voluntary industry standards. As a result, it will keep structurally unsound, lead-containing, and otherwise un-

safe cribs out of the stream of commerce. Second, it will prohibit the use of unsafe secondhand cribs in hotels, motels, and inns. Third, it requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to update its standards by including new rules on crib durability. Many cribs are not built to withstand the stresses that active toddlers place on them, rendering older, used cribs even less safe for infants. Durability standards will assure safe usage over time, as well as quickly identify failures in design or hardware that could lead to a hazardous crib.

And finally, the bill requires new cribs to feature labels warning against the use of potentially dangerous soft bedding, to remind parents of the risk of infant suffocation from the use of pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals.

Madam Speaker, this measure was approved by the Senate last month as part of comprehensive consumer product safety legislation, and I applaud my colleague from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, who worked to ensure its passage. Now is the time for the House to act on this vital provision.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH JILL YODER FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Jill Yoder showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jill Yoder was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Yoder has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Jill Yoder for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

KELSIE HUTCHINSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsie Hutchinson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Kelsie Hutchinson is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsie Hutchinson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard

work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsie Hutchinson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD my heartfelt support for H. Res. 1061, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. April 4, 1968 was a tragic day for America and the world. We lost a visionary leader whose conviction that all men and women are created equal, be brought to fruition in our time. Today I will not mourn, but celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Although we have come a long way in remedying the social injustices of our country's history, we must continue to be engaged in a dialogue of racial and economic equality, and for the peace that Dr. King gave his life for. He fought for peace here in America, and he fought for peace for all around the world.

America is currently engaged in a war that has taken the lives of over 4,000 U.S. soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis. The uncanny similarities that the war in Iraq has with the Vietnam war must lead us to adhere to Dr. King's message of nonviolence. Dr. King spoke out against the Vietnam war even when his colleagues questioned his wisdom.

On April 4, 1967, a year to the day of his death, Dr. King addressed his colleagues at a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at the Riverside Church in New York City. His speech that day was entitled Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence. His message was poignant then and speaks directly to us today.

Dr. King stated, "Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours."

In order for us to continue Dr. King's legacy of peace and justice, we must take a stand to end the illegal and unjust war in Iraq. Today I reaffirm my commitment to ending this war and continuing the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HONORING BOB KUSSE, FORMER
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of former Pennsylvania State Senator and personal friend, Bob Kusse who passed this February. Bob Kusse was born in Rochester, New York in 1918, and attended the Universities of Rochester and Buffalo. Despite his New York roots however, this man dedicated the rest of his adult life to serving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Bob Kusse served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1972 to 1977. He was elected to the State Senate in a special election in May 1977. I had the great pleasure of working for Senator Kusse from 1981 until the Senator's retirement in 1984.

Senator Kusse was one of the toughest, most principled voices in the Pennsylvania State Senate. He was a remarkable advocate of improving the state's transportation system as well as the state's business climate. He was a committed conservative who was always ready to make tough decisions and make Pennsylvania attractive for new job creation.

Senator Kusse presided at a critical time and over efforts to rebuild the states' roads and bridges, expand its turnpike and put its mass transit systems on a sound footing. As a top fiscal conservative, he was a uniquely credible spokesman to join with Transportation Secretary Larsen and push for much needed revenues to fix Pennsylvania's transportation system.

Senator Kusse brought a rare integrity and wonderful outspokenness to the House, and later, the Senate. Bob Kusse was a self-made man who loved his community and his family, and had a marvelous love of learning that culminated in his seeking his Bachelor's degree, in his seventies, at Edinboro University after his retirement from the Pennsylvania State Senate. He was wonderful mentor and a truly marvelous public servant.

I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating the life of Senator Bob Kusse.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MR.
ROBERT ZERKLE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career and extensive community involvement of Mr. Robert Zerkle of Mascoutah, Illinois.

Bob served in the Mascoutah School District for 38 years, as a math teacher, Business Manager and Assistant Superintendent, before retiring in 2001.

Even after his retirement from the Mascoutah School District, Bob has continued to be a staunch advocate of Impact Aid, the federal program which provides assistance to local school districts that have been impacted

by the presence of federal property, such as the impact Scott Air Force Base has had on the Mascoutah School District in the Congressional district I represent. He has received several awards commending his efforts, including the 2008 Friends of the National Association of Federally Impact Schools Award and the Globe Award recognizing his career working on behalf of Impact Aid.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative for Scott Air Force Base, I have witnessed first hand how important the Impact Aid program is to our region and our students. Not only does it provide school districts such as Mascoutah with essential funding otherwise unavailable, it assures the men and women of our fighting forces that their children will receive a great education while they are keeping America safe and secure.

The tireless efforts of individuals like Bob Zerkle are an example of how one individual's dedication to a cause can have a lifetime effect on a community. Bob's wealth of experience and overwhelming devotion will no doubt be missed among his colleagues and his students.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Bob Zerkle for his years of dedicated service in support of Impact Aid and the students of the Mascoutah School district. I wish Bob the very best in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE CHATEAUGAY
BULLDOGS UPON WINNING
THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE BOYS
CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chateaugay Central School District's Bulldogs upon winning the 2008 New York State Boys Basketball Class D Championship. I am proud to represent the community of Chateaugay, New York, and this team, which won not only Chateaugay's first state basketball championship but also the first boys state basketball championship won by a Section X team.

On March 15, 2008, the Chateaugay Bulldogs won the New York State Class D Championship when they defeated the North Star Christian Academy Knights by a score of 52 to 41. In that game, the Bulldogs were in control from the opening tip and never fell behind. Brad Dumont lead the Bulldogs' balanced scoring attack with 16 points and six assists in the championship game and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. In addition, the Bulldogs' Zach Peck, who was named to the Class D All Tournament team, contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds while Drew Boyea added 12 points in the final contest. Of note, the Bulldogs' Jordan Rankin was awarded the Tournament's Sportsmanship Award.

The Chateaugay Bulldogs completed the 2008 season with a record of 24 and 1. They were coached by Ron Boyea and assistant coaches Steve Lang, Jason LaPlante, and Mike Martin. Other team members were Tyler Beach, Andy Cook, Andrew Gadway, Ryan Helm, Jordan Henderson, Cody Hesseltine,

Blake Parmater, Brad Spinner, Cory Spoor and Dylan White.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of this team and their accomplishments. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating them.

INTRODUCING THE RESTORING
THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COUNTY
HEALTH CARE COSTS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker. I rise today with my colleagues Representatives RUSH HOLT and MICHAEL BURGESS introduced bi-partisan legislation today which will restore the federal-local partnership in covering medical expenses for incarcerated individuals before they are adjudicated.

The Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2008 ensures that individuals currently receiving Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security Insurance (SSI) will continue to receive those benefits until they are tried and convicted and that local governments will not be forced to cover the medical expenses of individuals who have not yet been convicted of any wrongdoing.

A person incarcerated in a county jail or juvenile detention facility in almost all states is ineligible to receive Medicare, Medicaid, or SSI benefits once they enter the facility. Under current law, however, the suspension of benefits occurs prior to the issuance of formal charges or conviction. As a result, local governments (usually county governments) are responsible for not only meeting and paying for the mandate that all individuals who are inmates of public institutions be provided with health care, but also for the days, weeks, months, and even years leading up to an actual conviction. If a person is found innocent, the reinstatement of federal benefits—benefits which should not have been taken away in the first place—can takes months, while the local government continues to be responsible for covering the non-reimbursable costs associated with providing the federally-mandated health care to these individuals. The cost assessed to counties, although not exact, is in the hundreds of millions nationwide.

The bipartisan Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2008 addresses this issue prohibiting the Federal Government from stripping individuals of their Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI benefits prior to actually being convicted and reaffirming the federal-local partnership in meeting this mandate.

Madam Speaker, stripping people of their federal benefits before they have been convicted of anything is a direct contradiction of the basic presumption of innocence which is the foundation of the American criminal justice system. And for the Federal Government to stick local governments with the tab for this contradictory policy is just plain wrong.

The Federal and local governments are partners in ensuring that all of our residents have medical coverage. Neither partner should be bearing an unfair burden in meeting this mandate.

Our bipartisan legislation is a common sense solution to this continuing problem, and

I urge my colleagues to support its expeditious passage.

HONORING KATHRYN GUSTAFSON

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the honoring of her lifetime achievement, one of Seattle's great historic organizations, the Rainier Club, the People of the State of Washington would like to hold up as a national inspiration the special record of one of our State, Nation, and world's most notable landscape architects, the distinguished and virtually peerless Kathryn Gustafson.

I have supported and honored the arts as a unique vehicle for personal growth and community enrichment. Landscape architecture in particular has the capacity to elevate the daily experiences of people from all walks of life while promoting harmony and balance between people and nature.

Ms. Kathryn Gustafson's significant contributions to the discipline of landscape architecture are as impressive as they are vast in geography, style, theme and dimensions ranging from 1 acre to 150 acres.

As the BBC noted in a 2002 article, Ms. Gustafson's work "is about harmony between the land and the mind, body and soul, she says, and harmony between the site's past and how it can be adapted for the future."

My home city of Seattle has been the beneficiary of her fine touch with projects such as Seattle's City Hall Plaza and the McCaw Hall Opera House.

From Seattle to London and Paris to Beirut, Kathryn Gustafson's work in designing landscapes for complex, high-use spaces has enriched the lives of countless people. A sampling of her works include The Square of Human Rights in Evry, France; the Square Rachmaninov in Paris; the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park, London; the Museum of Art at the University of Michigan; and countless others.

While Ms. Gustafson's awards are too numerous to list, she has been honored with the prestigious 2007 National Heritage of the 20th Century Award, bestowed by the French Minister of Culture; the 2003 Design Merit Award of the American Society of Landscape Architects for her work on the Arthur Ross Terrace at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City; and in 2001 the esteemed Chrysler Design Award, which is described by Chrysler as honoring the "achievements of individuals who have consistently championed seminal works of architecture and design, and significantly influenced modern American culture."

But perhaps the most enduring honor of all is to lay claim to the translation of one's talents and vision into works that lift the spirits of millions of world citizens each and every day, and for decades and perhaps centuries to come.

We in Washington's Seventh Congressional District give thanks to Kathryn Gustafson for her unique abilities and for sharing them with so many of her fellow citizens in the public sphere. We are proud to have such a distinguished architect among us.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH ALISHA NUMBERS FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Alisha Numbers showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Alisha Numbers was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Numbers has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Alisha Numbers for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

KRISTEN VASQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kristen Vasquez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Kristen Vasquez is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kristen Vasquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kristen Vasquez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING CREATION OF REFUGEE POPULATION

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, this week the House passed House Resolution 185, which expresses the sense of the House regarding the existence of refugee populations

in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region. In addition to the international concern about Palestinian refugees, this resolution calls attention to the injustices suffered by Jews and other ethnic groups that have lived as minorities in the region. I fully support this resolution's call for recognition of the rights of former Jewish, Christian, and other refugees from Arab countries.

While much of the resolution is important and sets forth historically accurate information, the final paragraph of the resolving clause conditions resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on resolution of "all refugees displaced from Arab countries." I share the goal of resolving all refugee issues in the Middle East, but I do not believe it is likely that they can be resolved through the Annapolis process or some future Israeli-Palestinian negotiating process. In my view, imposing such a condition will likely doom Annapolis and any subsequent good-faith effort to follow the roadmap to a permanent two-state solution first laid out in 2003. I certainly hope that all Middle Eastern refugee issues can and will be resolved, including refugees of the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other minority faiths, but I cannot support linking the resolution of all Middle Eastern refugee issues to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It's not fair to Israelis or to Palestinians to tie the resolution of their conflict to a global resolution of all Middle Eastern refugee issues.

I also disagree with the way the U.S. Congress, by passing this measure, has imposed new stipulations for any agreement, which effectively ties the hands of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

These negotiators already have enough roadblocks to dismantle; the last thing that they need is the U.S.

Congress trying to prescribe a certain method or outcome on a difficult issue in the negotiations, which is the refugee issue. Many of my colleagues and I believe the Annapolis negotiations have not gone as well as we hoped, but they are still—for the moment—moving forward. Rather than trying to impose a particular outcome on refugee issues, the Congress should express its support of the process and encourage the parties to work toward resolution of the issues they have already agreed are most essential.

Again, I favor reducing the impediments to a final resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Instead, this week's resolution raises a new roadblock to the implementation of the roadmap. I urge all parties to support the peace process as they carefully balance the interests of all refugees. Let's support the negotiations, move the parties to final status, and work towards a vision of peace.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. BESSIE (DAVIS) WYNN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Bessie (Davis) Wynn, a poet, born April 5, 1908 in Carr, Florida.

Mrs. Wynn is the daughter and second child of James Stephen Davis II and Annie Elizabeth Ware Davis. As a child she went to

school at St. Paul AME Church in Blountstown, Florida since there were no other school systems available to Black children there. She first started doing poetry as a child when she noticed that the other children were not doing well with their Easter speech. She prayed to God to give her the power to help them, so she memorized all their speeches so that if they forgot a word she would be able to tell them. This was the beginning of a calling that has expanded for most her life. Her first poem she recited was "I'm Methodist bred and Methodist born, and when I die I'll be Methodist gone." As she learned poems she would mix other things in them to give them more flare. She moved to Pensacola when she was a teen to work and help out at home, but had to return to help take care of her siblings when her mother died.

In 1925 she married Reverend Samuel Wynn and had four children, one son, Samuel Jr. (deceased), and three daughters, Mary Catherine, Annie Laura, and Jimmie Ola. She lived in different places because her husband was a minister and settled down in Blountstown where she has lived in the same house for more than 70 years. In her younger days she made and sold jewelry as well as working in the lunch room at Mayhaw School. She was a den mother for FHA and made the basketball uniforms for the first girl's team at Mayhaw. She was elected as queen of St. Paul AME Church and won the talent competition in the Golden Girls contest held in Blountstown.

She worked for almost 40 years for the Hollinger family where she was forced to retire after out-living her employers. She was in her 80s at the time of her retirement. She also took in laundry and was a seamstress as well.

Mrs. Wynn is best known for her poetry and recitations, which she has performed along the eastern seaboard, including New York, and in Bermuda. She is now a great-great grandmother and still continues to delight audiences with her recitations and her quick wit and entertaining personality. I am privileged to honor the life of this centenarian and life long Floridian. Happy Birthday Mrs. Wynn and best wishes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LEO KOLLIGIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA, Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH, and Congressman DEVIN NUNES to pay tribute to the life of Leo Kolligian of Fresno, California, who recently passed away at 90 years of age. Mr. Kolligian was an ambitious man who made lasting, positive impacts on California's Central Valley. He leaves behind a loving family including his wife June, his son Lee Jay, a daughter-in-law Maria and his three grandchildren Tyler, Kyle, and Kate.

Leo was born in Fresno in August of 1917. After graduating from Fresno State, Leo spent time in Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in order to obtain his Juris Doctorate. Leo soon began serving as the United States Deputy At-

torney General in Sacramento, before venturing into the development industry throughout Fresno, Merced, and Madera counties where his impressive work is still appreciated today. In 1985, Leo was appointed to the University of California Board of Regents by the Governor of California. Leo was then elected Chairman of the Board, wherein he was a driving force in the establishment of the University of California, Merced—the Valley's only UC campus.

While achieving numerous successes and accolades for his service, Leo still found time to dedicate to the Boalt Hall Law School Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society, the Saint Agnes Medical Center Board of Trustees, and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum. Leo earned a reputation as a passionate advocate for education and a supporter of many worthwhile charitable organizations. The legacy of his support for education is forever preserved on the University of California Merced campus with the establishment of the Leo S. Kolligian Library. Despite his many contributions and accomplishments, Leo remained a humble, grateful man who never forgot the values for which he stood—hard work, honesty and integrity.

It goes without saying that Leo Kolligian had a strong positive influence on the region. His lifelong commitment to the betterment of the entire San Joaquin Valley will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. We are honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

HOMESCHOOLING IS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, homeschooling has been a major part of this Nation's history since its founding. In fact, when the Constitution was written nearly everyone was homeschooled. Many of our country's greatest leaders received quality education at home including: George Washington, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, General George S. Patton, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Patrick Henry, James Madison, Davy Crockett, and General Douglas MacArthur.

From 1620 until the mid-1800s, most parents in America taught their children to read at home. Students would then attend university systems that were operated by religious leaders. Education was voluntary and yet literacy rates in colonial America were significantly higher than they are today.

Across the United States today more than 2.1 million children are homeschooled. Studies have confirmed that children who are educated at home consistently score higher on achievement tests and college entrance exams than non-homeschooled children. These graduates then go on to act as responsible parents and citizens in the workplace and the home.

Now judges on the California appellate court, want to overturn not only hundreds of years of tradition, but the United States Constitution by denying parents their constitu-

tionally protected right to homeschool their children. According to the California court, parents who homeschool their children ought to be fined or sent to jail.

Who do these judges think they are?

Apparently, they don't believe they have a responsibility to uphold the Constitution of the United States. If they did they would have known that the Supreme Court has already addressed the fundamental and constitutional rights of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children and they have found in favor of parents.

In *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, decided in 1972, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in favor of Amish parents who wanted to remove their children from public school after the 8th grade because it violated their religious beliefs. The Court held that the compulsory attendance law unduly burdened the free exercise clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

In *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, decided in 1925, the Supreme Court invalidated legislation that required parents to send their children to public schools. The Court found that the law unreasonably interfered with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

Again in *Meyer v. State of Nebraska*, decided in 1923, the Supreme Court struck down a law that prohibited parents from letting their children learn a foreign language before the 8th grade. The Court held that the liberty guaranteed in the 14th Amendment protected the rights of parents to control the education of their own children.

In accordance with the Constitution, Supreme Court case law clearly supports the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

It's about time for the judges out in California to pick up the U.S. Constitution, look at Supreme Court case precedent, and issue a new ruling that is consistent with the freedoms this country was founded on.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO 2008 JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 28, 2008, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 104 young people exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and their schools by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ben Ackerman, Blue Valley North, Leawood; Molly Allison-Gallimore, Home School, Spring Hill; Miriah Anderson, Olathe Northwest, Olathe; Sydney Ayers, Barstow, Leawood; Amir Bachelani, Olathe Northwest, Olathe;

Elizabeth Baldwin, Blue Valley High School, Stilwell; Leah Barber, Westridge Middle School, Shawnee Mission; Derek Bradshaw, Frontier Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Kristina Buchanan, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission; Alexx Burnside, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe.

Julie Bywater, Pleasant Ridge Middle School, Olathe; Sally Carmichael, Shawnee Mission West, Lenexa; Jasmine Carr, Westridge Middle School, Lenexa; Kristy Carter, Olathe North, Olathe; Abigail Catron, Notre Dame de Sion, Leawood; Carter Clause, Rockhurst, Leawood; Bryce Cooke, Olathe South, Olathe; Bradley Cooper, Olathe Northwest, Lenexa; Daniel Cooper, Olathe Northwest, Lenexa; Daniel Cooper, Olathe Northwest, Lenexa.

Steven Cooper, Olathe Northwest, Lenexa; Jacob Doles, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Kathryn Duroe, Olathe Northwest, Olathe; Allison Ens, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Rindy Fairchild, Midland Adventist Academy, Shawnee; Amber Fedor, Olathe Northwest, Lenexa; Emily Ann Ferbezar, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission; Stephen Fowler, Shawnee Mission East, Shawnee Mission; Evan Gage, Blue Valley Northwest, Overland Park; Christy Garren, Westridge Middle School, Overland Park.

Jennifer Garren, Shawnee Mission West, Overland Park; Kevin Garrett, Shawnee Mission West, Lenexa; Michael Garrett, Shawnee Mission West, Lenexa; Finley Gates, Shawnee Mission East, Fairway; Victoria Gaughan, Olathe South, Olathe; Enaam Gettino, Shawnee Mission West, Shawnee Mission; Caroline Godfrey, Blue Valley North, Leawood; Jenna Gottschalk, Shawnee Mission West, Shawnee Mission; Jonathan Gregory, Maranatha Academy, Lenexa.

Lauren Gregory, Home School, Lenexa; Cameron Gunter, Chisholm Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Eileen Hail, Blue Valley West, Olathe; Stephanie Haynes, Olathe South, Olathe; Vienesse Homan, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Lauren Hoobler, Olathe North, Olathe; Tyler Howard, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Lisa Imgrund, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission; Katie Kelter, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Chris Kennedy, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Lenexa.

Jadhken Kerr, Olathe South, Olathe; Nicole Knapp, Shawnee Mission West, Shawnee Mission; Rachel Knapp, Westridge Middle School, Shawnee Mission; J. Paul Knightly, Olathe Northwest, Olathe; Laura Knowles, Shawnee Mission West, Overland Park; Allison Kohn, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park; Connor Lambert, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Lenexa; Angela Lee, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Garrett Leiker, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Lenexa.

Terrell Mace, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee; Clara Malone, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee; Kathryn Martin, Westridge Middle School, Shawnee Mission; Annie McBee, Shawnee Mission East, Leawood; Caleb McKay, Westridge Middle School, Shawnee Mission; Molly Miller, Olathe South, Olathe; Ashley Murry, St. Thomas Aquinas, Olathe; Paige Nawalany, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission; Jack Nelson, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Derek O'Grady, Shawnee Mission East, Prairie Village; Addie Orpin, Bishop Miege, Roeland Park.

Nisha Patel, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Kristine Plankers, Olathe South, Olathe; Justin Pohl, Blue Valley Northwest, Overland Park; Ryan Pohl, Oxford Middle School, Overland Park; Lindsey Pollock, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Justin Prelogar, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park; Jamie Purcell, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Rebecca Queen, Pembroke Hill, Shawnee Mission.

Kristen Ramsdale, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Kelly Regan, Blue Valley West, Overland Park; Rebecca Renteria, Santa Fe Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Bryce Reynolds, Olathe Northwest, Olathe; Cassie Rhodes, Spring Hill High School, Spring Hill; Rachael Riedel, Westridge Middle School, Shawnee Mission; Peter Rogers, Olathe North, Olathe; Laura Lynn Schneller, Bishop Miege, Shawnee; Justin Scott, Shawnee Mission West, Shawnee Mission; Hannah See, Home School, Merriam; Ryan Shelton, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee.

Cassie Slocum, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission; Megan Smith, Westridge Middle School, Lenexa; Jennifer Sommerfeld, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission; Joe Stack, Prairie Trail Jr. High, Lenexa; Jessica Storm, Shawnee Mission West, Overland Park; Rebeka Stowe, Olathe Northwest, Olathe; Maggie Stubbs, Olathe North, Olathe; Anna Sturman, Olathe South, Olathe.

Michelle Sudac, Mill Valley, Shawnee; Marissa Titus, Shawnee Mission East, Prairie Village; Cody Tousey, Olathe South, Olathe; Ashley Vaughan, Olathe Northwest, Olathe; Monica Vezendan, Olathe South, Olathe; Sarah Wacker, Home School, Merriam; Austin Walter, Bishop Miege, Shawnee; Russell Walter, Bishop Miege, Shawnee; Matt Wedel, Blue Valley West, Overland Park.

LUIS LARIOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Luis Larios who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Luis Larios is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Luis Larios is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Luis Larios for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

COMMENDING JOSEPH P. ANDERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FOR A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the success of a man from my home state of Arizona—Joseph P. Anderson—who is retiring after devoting his professional life to helping our state's less fortunate and most vulnerable people.

Joe is a third-generation Arizonan raised in Prescott. His father, Novian Anderson, was an Army major and then an Arizona Department of Economic Security employee. His mother, Martha Anderson, was a school teacher. He credits these two hard working individuals with instilling in him a strong work ethic and sense of community. Those solid roots, which included a strong religious upbringing, gave him a base for everything he needed to know about life—work hard, live by the Golden Rule, be loyal to your friends, and never forget to give back to the community that nurtured you.

After graduating from Arizona State University, Joe embarked on a 17-year career with the Arizona State Government. While working for the Arizona Department of Administration, Joe's superb organizational and analytical skills were recognized by Governor Bruce Babbitt, who had the wisdom to couple them with the talents of Dr. Donald F. Schaller in a bold move to address the state's failing Medicaid system. Together, they rebuilt Arizona's pioneering health plan for the poor and created a successful new prototype of managed care that cut costs while providing high quality health care. It proved to be so effective, it has been emulated in whole or in part by most other states.

In 1986, Joe and "Doc" formed a partnership with P.J. Davis and started the consulting firm of Schaller Anderson. Working as a team, they established an acclaimed long-term care program and developed managed health plans for low income persons in seven states, while also working on Medicaid programs in two other states. Schaller Anderson became such a success that it was purchased by Aetna to serve as its Medicaid arm with Joe remaining as chairman of the Schaller Anderson Board.

Staying loyal to his parents' values, Joe always made time for worthy causes. Never one to scrimp on donating time, energy and money, he also encouraged his employees to contribute to charitable causes as well. His efforts were instrumental to the good work done by such groups as the Central Arizona Shelter Services, the Cesar Chavez School, a City of Phoenix smoke alarm distribution program that aided low-income households, and the Monsignor Edward J. Ryle Fund. Not surprisingly, these tireless efforts resulted in his being awarded with a number of prestigious commendations citing his service and leadership.

Clearly, Joe's indomitable belief in the importance of giving and participating has served both him and the State of Arizona very well. So, even in retirement, we expect Joe will continue to be guided by the strong sense of responsibility he gained from his parents and we look forward to his remaining active in making Arizona a better place to live for those in need.

BLAME CONGRESS FOR THE HIGH
PRICE OF OIL**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, gasoline prices are soaring. The problem rests on the well-known principle of supply and demand. Our domestic energy supply cannot meet our demand. The solution is to increase our supply by exploring domestic energy sources and allowing drilling in ANWAR.

The problem is even worse when you consider that as more countries industrialize, especially India and China, there will be more demand for the same amount of oil. The result? Even higher gas prices.

While it is easy to point fingers and blame American oil companies, the real culprit is Congress. Congress is responsible because it decided to subsidize special interest groups, energy companies which may produce expensive and unreliable energy someday. Congress placed our future in the hands of unproven energy sources.

Instead of supporting those companies that provide our energy today, Congress punished them with high taxes. But Congress was sure to exempt Venezuelan oil company, CITGO, from these high taxes.

Gas companies have reported record profits in recent years, but these profits resulted in record high tax collection. Two months ago, Exxon-Mobil announced record profits of \$40.7 billion, but they paid nearly \$30 billion in taxes. Their high profits are due to the increasing demand for oil by American and global consumers. And this demand isn't going to change. Also these profits go to shareholders—the thousands of Americans that own stock in oil companies. By punishing oil companies, Congress is hurting the average American who owns a little stock in oil companies.

The United States is the only industrial power in the world that does not take advantage of its own energy resources. We must drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Outer Continental Shelf. Our gas prices will fall if we are able to increase our domestic supply of oil.

Federal government restrictions are burdening the American consumer and private business. These restrictions have put a halt on building new oil refineries. In fact, it's been 32 years since the last US oil refinery was built in Garyville, Louisiana. These unnecessary restrictions and taxes are driving companies to move off shore where restrictions and taxes are less.

Congress must lift the unnecessary regulations on off-shore drilling. If Congress doesn't lift these restrictions, the American consumer will continue paying high prices for gas and the United States will remain dependent on 3rd world nations and Dictator Chavez.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO BILLIE JEAN
OSBORNE**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, the reason our region in Kentucky moves forward is because people stand up to be counted. They have passion for their community, believe in others, and have a can-do spirit to get things done. They radiate optimism wherever they go and spread it to others, and it catches fire in the communities in which they live. These people are priceless—their passion makes them natural leaders.

One such person is Billie Jean Osborne. Because of her, young people in eastern Kentucky learned something that is as vitally important as it is elusive—self-confidence. The Kentucky Opry Junior Pros, who range in age from elementary school to college-aged students, perform live shows for up to 1000 people throughout the year. She gives them a musical education and they put that on display for the whole community.

She did more than give young kids self-confidence. Billie Jean is the driving force that led to the creation of the Mountain Arts Center in which they perform. Because of this facility, grandparents, parents, friends and neighbors can see the talents of these young performers.

Billie Jean approached many people about building this center in 1992. She talked to anyone who would listen about this idea and many said "this is great; call us when you're ready." It turns out she was ready, and made a lot of us ready as well and we got it built 5 years later. Communities large and small need a focal point. Whether it is the St. Louis arch or the Washington Monument, these landmarks define communities by the history and heritage they represent.

In this region that heritage involves country, bluegrass and gospel where folks learned to play guitars, banjos and sing from their parents and grandparents. But for many smaller communities there isn't such a landmark or even a place nearby large enough where very many people can congregate. Thanks to Billie Jean we have both. It is the Mountain Art Center, or simply "the MAC" and it is the pride of Prestonsburg.

Her life experience led to the establishment of the Kentucky Opry nearly 20 years ago for older musicians. Many Junior Opry members later go on to join the Kentucky Opry. A school teacher for 30 years, Billie Jean still provides area schools with supplemental music education programs. She educates thousands of children with private music lessons, plays the organ at her Church, where she's been a member for nearly half a century, and started a music education program at the MAC at no cost to the students.

She will be honored at the MAC on April 12. Her students spanning generations, current and former members of the Kentucky Opry and Jr. Opry and people throughout the region will be there. They will be there because Billie Jean Osborne showed us how to take what is in us and put it on a stage.

I am proud to know her and pay tribute to her in the United States Congress.

ON THE PASSING OF HARRY
McDONALD**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Harry Ryan "Mack" McDonald, Jr. Mack was a patriot who over the course of many years put his country before himself.

Born on August 8, 1928, in Pensacola in my district in northwest Florida, Mack enjoyed an extensive career with both the United States Navy and Army. Over two decades of service saw him rise from his first enlistment to the rank of first sergeant and later retire at the rank of captain. Through those years he defended our Nation's liberty in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. Mack's bravery in combat earned him, among other honors, both the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.

After his retirement, Mack returned to northwest Florida, the area of the country where he had grown up and still wanted to call home. After building a house in the city of Crestview, Mack wanted to continue to be engaged with our Armed Forces and joined the Disabled American Veterans, DAV, Crestview Chapter 57. His love of service to his country showed in his involvement with DAV, and he served in many positions. Mack went on to become a chapter commander, a district commander, and a State commander. This is no small task given the number of veterans that choose to call the State of Florida their home.

From 1997 to 1998, Mack served as the national commander for the Disabled American Veterans. There is no doubt that Mack was the right man for this monumental job. He served as the main advocate for over a million veterans throughout the nation. In this position, Mack traveled the Nation learning the needs of disabled veterans and came before Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to explain and press for improved services for those veterans.

My condolences go out to Mack's wife Merallyn, their family, and all others who mourn the loss of this great servant to our Nation. America is a better, safer place because of him and those many others who served in our Armed Forces. He loved his country and his family deeply, and his loss will have a vast impact on many.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Mack McDonald from this world, and his family is in my thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO COACH CREAN

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on April 2, 2008, Tom Crean was named the 28th head basketball coach at Indiana University. I wish to congratulate Coach Crean and welcome him to Indiana's 9th Congressional District.

Coach Crean comes to Indiana University from Marquette University. At Marquette, Coach Crean led the Golden Eagles to five NCAA Tournament appearances and a Final Four berth in 2003. Coach Crean also consistently graduated his players. Marquette's graduation rate was often ranked in the Top Ten amongst major NCAA conferences.

Indiana's 9th Congressional District is in the heart of Hoosier Hysteria. Tiny Milan High School defeated Muncie Central High School in 1954, creating inspiration for one of the greatest sports movies of all time, "Hoosiers." Many young men and women grow up dreaming of walking into Assembly Hall in Bloomington and playing for the Hoosiers.

Coach Crean is ready to embody and embrace the tradition that is Indiana basketball. From the five national championship banners that hang in Assembly Hall to the famous candy striped warm-up pants, Indiana University is steeped in basketball tradition. When asked why he left Marquette, Coach Crean simply responded, "It's Indiana, and that's the bottom line." Coach Crean understands the tradition.

Again, congratulations to Coach Crean. I know Hoosier fans across the 9th District are looking forward to seeing him on the sidelines.

GEORGIA AND UKRAINE NATO MEMBERSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which expresses the sense of Congress that Ukraine and Georgia should enter the NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) as soon as possible. I visited Ukraine just two weeks ago, and the visit was an opportunity to witness the country at a unique time. Many will say that it is a country divided, but I believe it is simply a country experiencing the growing pains of blossoming democracy. The process has often been ugly and chaotic—like democracy itself. But Ukrainians are committed to democracy and to a place in Europe. They want a modern country that plays a constructive role in the international community.

But while they are universally committed to achieving a place in Europe, the Ukrainian people are still deeply ambivalent on the issue of NATO because they have not yet had the opportunity for an open discussion, or education on the matter free from propaganda. The issue has successfully been cast by its detractors as one of antagonism toward the East. This is, of course, utterly false.

The MAP process is critical because it presents an opportunity to allow all factions of Ukrainian society to get a complete picture of what NATO membership means. Of course Ukraine should not join NATO until the country stands as one on the issue. But it will never reach consensus without education and honest debate. That's what MAP is all about, and why it is so important for Ukraine to begin that process at the upcoming NATO summit in Bucharest, Romania.

We all want to see Ukraine in NATO one day. We want to see Ukraine solidify its demo-

cratic tradition, strengthen its institutions, modernize its defense systems, grow its economy and play an important and constructive role in both the West and the East. The name "Ukraine" itself means "borderland." It has the opportunity to be a bridge between Europe and Asia, and NATO can only be strengthened by such a key player. But NATO membership cannot be undertaken prematurely, and the time will never be right without the work that is done via the MAP process.

Georgia still has a long way to go as well before it is ready for NATO membership. But its people are committed to beginning down this path, and we should not deny them the opportunity to formally begin the process at Bucharest. Like Ukraine, Georgia experienced a democratic "color" revolution, and has since had to deal with the great challenges of implementing the goals and ideals of that revolution. They have also experienced growing pains, and have learned that the day-to-day work of building a democracy is not easy. But the Georgian people remain utterly committed to this work. They are working to ensure that critical institutions, including defense and security institutions, are strong, transparent and democratically governed.

Both Georgia and Ukraine must solidify their gains and begin the MAP process. The road to NATO membership is often long and challenging, and no one would benefit—not the U.S., not NATO, nor the region—from delaying the start of this process.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POISON CENTER SUPPORT, ENHANCE- MENT AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2008 (H.R. 5669)

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Congressman TOWNS (NY-10) on the introduction of the Poison Center Support, Enhancement, and Awareness Act of 2008 which provides the necessary funding to operate poison control centers across the country.

First, I want to thank Mr. TOWNS for his leadership on this issue. As a fellow member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and a member of the Health Subcommittee, his expertise and experience with public health matters is much appreciated.

Poison Control Centers throughout the United States play a critical role in saving lives, especially of children. Poisoning is the second leading form of unintentional death in the United States and an estimated 60 percent of those exposures are experienced by children under the age of 6 who are exposed to toxins in their home. Commonly ingested items found in the home include cleaning supplies, cosmetics, and pesticides.

Poison centers are manned by medical professionals 24 hours a day. Toxicologists at these centers have access to a computerized information retrieval system with over 800,000 products. These professionals are then able to assess poison risk, advise treatment and/or triage patients, recommend treatment or refer them to appropriate medical facilities.

The Nebraska Regional Poison Center, established in 1957, serves Nebraska, Wyoming,

American Samoa, and Federated States of Micronesia and provides 24-hour emergency and information hotline services. Last year alone, they received 40,129 calls and provided guidance and helped diagnose victims of accidental poisonings. Approximately 75 percent of calls to the Nebraska Regional Poison Center were able to be treated safely at home. In 2007, the Nebraska Regional Poison Center estimates that its services saved patients about \$22 million in healthcare costs. Poison control centers save money by eliminating or reducing the number of unnecessary trips to emergency departments.

Madam Speaker, this bill provides the funding needed to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention. This legislation not only saves lives, but it saves millions of dollars a year in unnecessary costs. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and have it considered on the House floor.

NICOLE SANCHEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nicole Sanchez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Nicole Sanchez is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nicole Sanchez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Nicole Sanchez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

HONORING CLIFTON CONRAD CURRY III

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clifton Conrad Curry III, who was taken from us on March 1, 2008, at just 20 years of age.

Trey, as he was known, was a young man who greatly enjoyed life and loved the people that crossed his path. It has been said that he never met a person that he did not like, and, in turn, everyone loved him. His kindness toward others, compassion, and bear hugs for close friends and family will not soon be forgotten.

Trey attended Hillsborough Community College and Tallahassee Community College. He was a 2006 graduate of Newsome High

School and a 2003 graduate of Brandon Academy. He was a member of both the Junior Varsity and Varsity football teams as a freshman at Tampa Catholic High School and played many seasons of South Brandon Little League Baseball. Trey was an avid Florida State University fan who enjoyed golfing with Coach Bobby Bowden and attending home football games with family. He was an outdoorsman who loved fishing, hunting, snow skiing, and golfing.

Madam Speaker, my heart aches for Trey's family. He leaves behind his parents, Terry and Cliff, his brother and sister, Colton and Mary Beth, and many other family and friends who loved him and will forever miss this most remarkable young man. May God bless the Curry family. We shall never forget Trey.

RECOGNIZING CARLENE H. ANDERSON, 2008 WALTON COUNTY RECIPIENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Carlene H. Anderson, the 2008 Walton County recipient of the Superintendent's Award for Volunteer Community Involvement.

Ms. Anderson has amplified education in the Walton County area, expanding it beyond the classroom and into the community. By building partnerships with the Walton County Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and various other community organizations, Ms. Anderson has fused a significant relationship that enforces the role of education in the community. Her recent collaboration with the Florida Chautauqua Assembly brought the Hall of Presidents to Walton County. The event was an immense success, drawing national attention and acclaim. More importantly, however, the success of the event proved the importance of education within the community.

Ms. Anderson's shrewdness and exceptional leadership capabilities have enhanced the learning opportunities for the students she overlooks and enriched the community with educational outlets. She is especially involved in the volunteer programs coordinated by the schools in Walton County and is a strong supporter of community involvement. This endorsement has resulted in multiple accolades including the Golden and Silver School Award.

Volunteers play a vital role in the physiology of the classroom. Their presence eases the responsibilities of the teacher and their assistance provides extra services for students who otherwise would not receive extended aide. Ms. Anderson's foresight and devotion to Walton County schools enabled her to recognize the importance of volunteers and their outstanding contributions to the schools. Such discernment has benefited the entire community which prospers from the student's academic success. Ms. Anderson's accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great people in Northwest Florida. Walton County is greatly indebted to her service and is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker. on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Superintendent Carlene H. Anderson on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Walton County School District.

IN HONOR OF GLENN DORFMAN'S SERVICE TO HOMETOWN MINNESOTANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Glenn Dorfman, who recently retired from the Minnesota Association of REALTORS. Having served as the association's Chief Operating Officer for 25 years, his genuine dedication, endless passion, tireless work ethic, and commitment to his community absolutely embody the finest of America's bedrock principles.

Many would tremble at the thought of being responsible for a 26,000 member trade association, but those who have worked with Glenn know he succeeded beyond all expectations. Glenn's colleagues have characterized him as having the unique ability to make complex concepts more understandable; and his ability to help and work with others has directly contributed to his success.

Maybe that's why a 1992 Star Tribune article referred to him as "a major player in shaping state tax policy," and why in the spring of 1995, a Star Tribune survey of Minnesota Legislators recognized Glenn as one of "The Top Eight Most Influential Lobbyists" in Minnesota.

Although Glenn has achieved so much in this line of work, some of his most significant achievements took place earlier in his career. Among those accomplishments, Glenn taught literature and mathematics to 7th & 8th graders in Kentucky, he was a college educator in Duluth, he served as Chief Executive Officer of a Catholic Charities Human Services Agency in Wisconsin, and he even held elective office.

Most recently, he was named the recipient of the 2005 21st Century Leadership Award from Minnesota Legal Aid. This honor recognized Glenn for the countless hours of pro bono work he has done for over 15 years to provide legal assistance to the poorest Minnesotans. A native of New York, Glenn has had a colorful and wide ranging career.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to celebrate Glenn Dorfman's extraordinary and noble career of service. His passion, commitment and enthusiasm for his work truly provide inspiration for us all. I stand today and join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him nothing but a fulfilled and blessed retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on March 31st and April 1st, 2008.

On Monday, March 30, 2008 and Tuesday, April 1, 2008, I was unable to be present in the Capitol due to a family emergency and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 147 through 152. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 147, on H.R. 3352, the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 148, on H.R. 2675, the HALE Scouts Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 149, on H. Con. Res. 302, a resolution supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 150, on H. Con. Res. 310, a resolution expressing support for a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 151, on H. Res. 1005, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 152, on H. Res. 1021, a resolution supporting the goals, ideals, and history of National Women's History Month, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRESSWOMAN NITA M. LOWEY STATEMENT ON H.R. 5501 TOM LANTOS AND HENRY J. HYDE UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde U.S. Global Leadership against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act.

Over the past five years two major initiatives have been created to combat HIV/AIDS and TB: the Global Fund and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPPAR). These initiatives have provided over \$18 billion and exceeded the President's target of \$15 billion by more than \$3 billion. As we seek to reauthorize this program today, I commend the target of \$50 billion over the next five years for these critical programs. This funding will allow us to prevent 12 million new HIV infections, provide treatment for 3 million people living with HIV/AIDS, treat 450,000 children and provide care for 12 million individuals, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children. This funding will reduce tuberculosis deaths and disease burden by half, the primary cause of death for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Five years ago, only 50,000 people living with HIV/AIDS were receiving antiretroviral treatment. Today with American leadership, almost 2 million people are receiving treatment. Clearly, we are making a difference.

With this next phase, we need to devote more resources to strengthen the capacity of nations to meet their own health challenges. If any of these interventions are to be sustainable in the long term, it requires that developing countries be able to shoulder more of

the responsibility for the health of their populations. I am pleased that this bill invests more in health infrastructure and the training of healthcare professionals. In addition, I am pleased that the bill recognizes the important role played by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in empowering countries to address their own health problems.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has ravaged the world, especially the African continent, and shows no signs of slowing down. While U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS prevention programs reached 57 million people last year alone, new infections are on the rise. It is essential that we renew our focus on prevention efforts, including key work on preventing mother-to-child transmission. Additionally, we must provide the flexibility to respond to the needs of the communities served including through the removal of the abstinence earmark in this bill, which I applaud.

While I believe this bill represents the strong bipartisan commitment of Congress to combating these epidemics, I am disappointed that the bill took a step backwards in the struggle for poor women to receive access to critical family planning services. A provision in the bill could be interpreted to limit, for the first time and contrary to current practice, the types of family planning programs that would be eligible for PEPFAR funding. I understand this was not the intent of the Committee and hope that this issue can be addressed during conference.

I commend Congressman BERMAN and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for crafting a bipartisan bill that will save millions of lives. It truly honors the legacy of our great colleagues, Congressman LANTOS and Congressman HYDE.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in December 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring April 2 as the annual World Autism Awareness Day (WARD). Autism is only the third disorder to be recognized in this manner by the UN, showing the pervasive nature of autism and its ever-increasing effect on millions of people worldwide. As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus, I recognize the destructive force that is autism and I am proud to recognize World Autism Awareness Day in order to raise awareness of this life-altering and little known disorder.

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that autism now afflicts one in every 150 American children and nearly one in 94 boys. These numbers are extremely disconcerting, especially when coupled with the fact that we know little about the root causes of autism.

By raising public awareness of autism, hopefully more money will be allocated to research and develop cures and treatments. I am leading an effort to increase the funding

for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Increasing NIH funding offers the best hope we have to finding cures and treatments for diseases and disorders like autism. Collectively, we must commit every available resource to all research in order to enhance the quality of life for many, and it is my hope that raising awareness of this disorder will lead to new resources to combat it.

More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined and autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world. While currently there is no medical detection or cure for autism, early diagnosis and intervention shows much promise. With increased support for autism awareness, together we will offer hope in an area that desperately needs it. And finally Madam Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to join us in this fight, to fund NIH medical research and bring hope to children and their families.

CONGRATULATING ENVIRON-
MENTALIST ROSA "CISSIE"
DURANDO FOR BEING NAMED A
STATE OF FLORIDA POINT OF
LIGHT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa "Cissie" Durando, a legendary environmentalist in Palm Beach County, Florida.

I have known "Cissie" Durando since coming to Congress in 1993. As an officer in the Audubon Society and on her own, Rosa has been actively dedicated to the preservation of our environment for nearly 50 years. Her knowledge of all things ecological, her honesty, diligence and determination combine to make her an invaluable resource to everyone concerned about protecting our water, air and land and the flora and fauna with which we cohabit our planet.

Over the course of her life, Rosa has accrued awards too numerous to mention. Now, her work has been recognized again by Florida Governor Charlie Crist, who has named her a "Point of Light" during Environmental Awareness Month.

I am pleased to join Governor Crist, Rosa's family, friends and huge numbers of admirers in celebrating her much deserved award, and I look forward to her continued contributions to the education of our citizens and the health of our planet.

RECOGNIZING THE EFRAIN
ANTHONY MARRERO FOUNDATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the efforts of the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation.

Over the last three years, the House Oversight Committee has held numerous hearings into the impact of steroid abuse. We've

learned of widespread abuse, not just by professional athletes, but by millions of teenage boys and girls, and we've learned of the terrible health impacts of this abuse.

We've heard from many experts who are doing the hard work necessary to reduce this epidemic of steroid abuse. And we've heard the tragic personal stories of families that have been affected by this problem.

Frank and Brenda Marrero are the parents of Efrain Marrero. Almost four years ago, their son Efrain, a promising high school athlete, committed suicide following steroid abuse.

The Marreros grieved. And they also acted, starting the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation to tell their story and to educate teenagers about the dangers of steroid abuse.

Representing their foundation, and keeping alive the memory of their son, the Marreros have traveled the country, speaking to parents, teachers, coaches, and teenagers at hundreds of workshops. Their simple message—and the power of their tragic personal story and their ability to persevere—have educated thousands of parents and children about the health impacts of steroid abuse.

I want to thank the Marreros for their efforts. The foundation's motto—FAST—Fighting Against Steroids Together—is a reminder of the need for constant vigilance by coaches, teachers, parents, and public officials to solve this public health problem.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the ongoing work of Frank and Brenda Marrero, and the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation, to reduce steroid abuse.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 3773, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which was approved by the House of Representatives on March 14, 2008. I believe that this bill was a good compromise between the RESTORE Act approved by the House on November 15, 2007 and the version of the legislation approved by the Senate on February 12, 2008. However, I opposed the version of H.R. 3773 considered in March, because it failed to include immunity for the telecommunications companies that cooperated with the administration's request to assist in intelligence collection.

I disagree with the President's decision to bypass congressional authority in authorizing such surveillance. However, I believe that the telecommunications companies were put in a difficult position and acted in a good-faith interest of national security when they cooperated with the administration's request. If Congress fails to grant them immunity, the consequences would be far-reaching.

Without immunity, the pending lawsuits against the telecom companies will carry on for years and saddle the telecoms with millions of dollars in legal fees—fees that will, in turn, be passed onto consumers.

There will be scenarios in the future when cooperation between the private sector and the Federal Government will be necessary. These situations will likely be met with distrust

and extreme hesitance on the part of private companies because we failed to come to their defense in this matter. This could be detrimental to U.S. security.

Instead of immunity, the FISA Amendments Act would allow the telecoms to defend themselves in court by lifting current restrictions and allowing classified information to be introduced as a part of their defense. This may or may not be sufficient to prove the innocence of the telecoms, but the introduction of this information would set a dangerous precedent. Over the objections of the President, highly classified information would be handed over to judges and lawyers who are unlikely to possess the appropriate and necessary security clearances. This would almost certainly make the introduction of such classified evidence in future proceedings easier, and could severely compromise our ability to collect and conduct future intelligence activities.

The initial House-approved FISA reform legislation, the RESTORE Act, did not contain any immunity provisions. I supported it with the expectation that we would consider immunity during a conference with the Senate. We voted instead on the FISA Amendments Act, which I believe is a good bill that represents a careful compromise. Immunity is critical and, because H.R. 3773 has no immunity provisions, I voted against its passage.

SHEYLINN WORK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sheylinn Work who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Sheylinn Work is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sheylinn Work is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Sheylinn Work for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF KNOX COUNTY OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Knox County, Ohio celebrated its 200th birthday on March 1, 2008 with great joy; and

Whereas, they will reflect on the past 200 years with fondness and celebrate; and

Whereas, the residents of Knox County have positively contributed to the history of America from the Civil War to the Industrial Revolution to today's society; and

Whereas, Knox County will reminisce on a lifetime full of memories and look forward to many more: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with my friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Knox County, Ohio a happy 200th birthday.

JAMES C. DUDDY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of James C. Duddy on the occasion of his retirement after more than 50 years of service to the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department.

James began his career as a firefighter in 1955, and rose to Assistant Chief Fire Marshal. Over the years, James has earned many awards including Firefighter of the Year and the Medal of Honor.

James has also been instrumental in assisting several other organizations. He has assisted the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on several occasions, and served as President of the Kansas City Arson Task Force for many years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending James C. Duddy for his dedicated service to ensuring the safety of the people of Kansas City, Missouri. I know James' colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY WHITE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Beverly White of Altadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. White as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Beverly is well known in southern California for her current role as the co-anchor of the "Today in L.A." weekend edition and as a long-time reporter on the popular 11 p.m. Channel 4 News. She focuses in particular on the live coverage necessitated by local natural disasters such as regional wildfires and the Northridge earthquake.

Armed with a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Texas at Austin, Beverly first set out on her multi-State career at KCEN-TV, NBC, in Temple/Waco and KENS-TV, CBS, in San Antonio. In the late 1980s, she moved to Cincinnati and became

the anchor of the top-rated morning newscast. There Beverly reported on the tumultuous saga of Pete Rose, as well as on the 1988 Democratic and Republican presidential conventions.

As a reporter for WTVJ in Miami, Beverly covered several stories on international affairs concerning Haiti and Cuba, as well as the rape trial of William Kennedy Smith. Exemplifying her specialty in live coverage, she was on the team that won a 1992 Peabody Award for their outstanding coverage of Hurricane Andrew.

Southern Californians encounter Beverly in the field in other ways as well. She is a past president of the Black Journalists Association of Southern California and is a member of the national affiliate, the National Association of Black Journalists. In addition to her professional leadership roles, Beverly supports community causes by hosting myriad annual awards functions, from YWCA's "Women of Excellence" event to Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Service's luncheon.

As an icon of local journalism and a selfless volunteer, Beverly's dedication to the Altadena community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Beverly White.

APPLAUDING THE RISE IN REMITTANCES SENT TO THE CARIBBEAN AS CRUCIAL TO THE AREA'S DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the significant role remittances play in the economies of the Caribbean and to applaud their record-setting increases, as described in the New York CARIB News article, "Remittances to Caribbean Reach Record High of \$8 Billion in 2007." That money, sent on behalf of family and friends living abroad, represents a considerable—and pivotal—portion of the region's GDP. These funds go a long way in contributing to the area's development and provide aid for its people to better afford food, shelter, clothing, and medicine.

This boost is a remarkable and laudable sign of global support for our neighbors to the south. Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Belize have particularly benefitted from it, receiving each a record amount. It is my hope that the region continues to see an influx of these funds from supporters worldwide who care intimately about the progress of the Caribbean.

REMITTANCES TO CARIBBEAN REACH RECORD HIGH OF \$8 BILLION IN 2007

The amounts typically range from \$200 to \$300 at each time.

Still, in 2007, they amounted to a whopping \$8.1 billion to the Caribbean, accounting in some cases to at least a third of the economies of nations in the region which receive funds from nationals in North America, Europe and elsewhere. At least \$5 billion of those funds went to Caricom states, particularly Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Belize.

In its annual report on remittances to Caribbean and Latin American nations in 2007, the Inter-American Development Bank's Multilateral Investment Fund stated that Jamaicans, Haitians, Guyanese, Trinidadians, Surinamese and Belizeans in that order sent a record amount of funds to their relatives and close friends last year.

And while the MIF didn't cite a specific sum for Barbados, the United Nations and the World Bank had previously estimated that Bajans abroad had sent more than \$140 million to their country.

Overall, remittances to the Caribbean and Latin America rose by seven per cent in 2007 over the figure for 2006, the first year for which there wasn't a double digit increase stated the Fund.

The importance of the remittances, the MIF explained, could be seen in "the significant contribution to the region's economy. For instance, Jamaicans remitted \$1.9 billion to relatives, accounting for 18% if country's gross domestic product while Haitians' \$1.8 billion in remittances represented 35% of the GDP. Guyana's was by far the largest single contributor to the GDP. The \$424 million may have been about 16 per cent if Jamaicans' flow but the money was 43% of the economy.

The smallest contribution was the \$125 million repatriated to Trinidad and Tobago. It represented one per cent of the economy while in Suriname's case, the \$115 million was 5%.

The Dominican Republic was the largest single recipient of remittances in the larger Caribbean region, receiving \$3.1 billion.

Belize's receipts of \$105 million were the equivalent of 8% of the GDP.

A closer look at the figures for 2007 and prior years showed that remittances to:

Jamaica rose from \$983 million in 2001 to almost \$1.5 billion in 2004.

Haiti, they skyrocketed from less than \$900 million in 2001 to just under \$1 billion in 2005, rising to last year's record level of 1.5 billion.

Guyana are considered a "crucial source of income."

The Caribbean and Latin America as a whole reached \$66.5 billion, about seven per cent more than in 2006.

Mexico amounted to almost \$24 billion, and was virtually unchanged, rising barely by one percent. Apparently Mexicans "appear to be less inclined to send money home, citing concerns about stricter enforcement of immigration laws and a slowing economy in the United States," the MIF reported.

Brazil, totaled \$7 billion, a decline of 4%. The reason: "increasing opportunities at home and a strengthening local currency, the 'Real,' has appreciated 14 percent against the dollar over the past 12 months.

The various countries pay for "basic expenses such as food, shelter, clothing and medicines but some of them are saved.

The region, about 75 percent of them "come from the United States, Spain and Japan."

Jamaica, the Dominica Republic, Guyana, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago have risen every year since the beginning of the 21st century.

STATEMENT OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the 60th anniversary of

the state of Israel and to honor the people and accomplishments of this great nation.

From its inception in 1948, Israel has had a long and painful struggle to sustain itself. On May 14, 1948, the United States was the first Nation to extend its formal recognition of Israel as a state, and our two states have since maintained a strong relationship through shared values and interests. Israel has a great deal to be proud of. It has built itself into a strong democracy with an advanced industrial, market economy in one of the most volatile regions of the world. While facing many challenges, it places a great emphasis on quality of life and leads the region in regards to education, democratic participation, and having a free press. The United States and Israel have had a strong relationship throughout their history, sharing these values. Our own country has benefited from Israel's prosperous economy, and in 1985, Israel and the United States concluded a free trade agreement. Israel's Silicon Wadi, an area comparable to the U.S.'s Silicon Valley, is one of the most robust telecommunications and technology industry areas in the world. As testament to this fact, important American companies have research and development facilities located there.

As we honor Israel's accomplishments, we also recognize the continued security threats the country faces from terrorist organizations and aggressive neighbors. Innocent Israelis are attacked with rockets and suicide bombings while belligerent leaders of other nations call for nothing short of Israel's destruction. The American people and Congress have consistently condemned these attacks on our friends. In the most recent example—rocket attacks from Gaza—the House passed a resolution strongly condemning these attacks, as well as the organizations and states supporting them. We have also provided aid for Israel's defense and for the security of the Middle East and will continue to support Israel's right to defend itself. While the challenges remain, the Israeli people have endured and persevered throughout history, and they will continue to do so, and the United States will remain a stalwart ally.

Madam Speaker, I again congratulate the people of Israel on this historic anniversary and wish them a peaceful and prosperous future.

A TRIBUTE TO LISSA LAYNG REYNOLDS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lissa Layng Reynolds of South Pasadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly, it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Reynolds as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Lissa is a professional theater, film, and television actress whose interaction with her community goes far beyond the stage and screen. As the president of the California Performing Arts Centre and co-artistic director of the award-winning Fremont Centre Theatre in

South Pasadena, Lissa will celebrate the theatre's 10th anniversary this year. She shares the milestone with her husband, James, who also serves as the theatre's co-artistic director and can be seen on NBC's "Days of Our Lives" as Commissioner Abe Carver. Together they have produced and co-produced over 30 plays during the Fremont Centre Theatre's decade of existence. Lissa and her family have lived in South Pasadena for over 20 years. Her son, Jed Reynolds, graduated from South Pasadena schools and now coaches the high school junior varsity basketball team. Jed is also pursuing a career as an actor and is currently starring in the Fremont Centre Theatre's hit show "Ravensridge."

In addition to the Fremont Centre Theatre, Lissa and James own and operate Classes Unlimited, an adult learning center, and Big Men Stuff, a clothing company that uses slogans to combat domestic abuse. The Reynolds' were selected as two of the most influential people in Pasadena by Pasadena Weekly and they received the Gold Crown Award from the Pasadena Arts Council for supporting local arts education and development.

Giving back to the community is a priority for Lissa. Her busy schedule is packed equally with volunteer, fundraising, and professional efforts. Examples include the Haven House Women's Shelter in Pasadena, the Pasadena Humane Society, the Foothill YMCA, and the South Pasadena Police Department. For many years Lissa has joined her husband on USO handshake and educational tours for the troops and for their families. To encourage students to become active in the arts, the pair frequently directs local elementary school productions of Shakespeare and hosts an annual charity celebrity basketball tournament to benefit South Pasadena schools. For her continued philanthropic efforts Lissa has been honored by numerous organizations, including Women at Work, the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, and the Tournament of Roses Association.

Lissa's stage is her community; rather than focus on herself, she works to make South Pasadena the star. Her selfless service to the South Pasadena community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Lissa Layng Reynolds.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH MICHELLE MISHLER FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Coach Michelle Mishler showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Michelle Mishler was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Mishler has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Michelle Mishler for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

ASSESSING THE BURDEN AFRICAN AMERICANS FACE IN A SLOWING ECONOMY—AND WHAT CONGRESS HAS DONE TO ALLEVIATE IT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to underscore the unfortunate financial squeeze many African American families will face as a result of the slumping economy. African American families and other families of color will suffer the most from a recession because they are disproportionately poor and do not have the safety net enjoyed by others. They carry a significant and disproportionate share of the burden, victim to an economic downturn that will harm working- and middle-class Americans most—unless we offer fresh and bold solutions to cultivate an economy that works for us all. Not just the wealthy. Not just the politically connected. But us all.

The “New Direction” Congress has been swift in addressing this need. The stimulus package will provide much-needed tax relief to the tune of \$600 per individual, \$1,200 per married couple, and an additional \$300 per child. But it doesn't stop there. It goes on to protect the least among us, committing \$32 billion for those 35 million families who work tirelessly but do not earn enough to pay income taxes and guaranteeing rebates to seniors on Social Security, disabled veterans, and military widows. The package is estimated to create more than 500,000 jobs before the end of this year, of particular good news to African Americans, whose unemployment rate climbed from 8 percent in the fall to 9.2 percent just a few months afterwards.

A second phase of increases in the minimum wage will take effect this July, not a moment too soon for those two million African Americans who benefit from the hike, and the 1.1 million more African Americans now living in poverty since President Bush took office. Our work on behalf of small businesses has strengthened the 1.2 million of them owned by African Americans, with revenues eclipsing \$88 billion. That work has resulted in tax cuts for small business of \$4 million over the next 10 years, increasing their share of Federal contracts, and lowering their cost of financing. And in response to the subprime mortgage crisis—the result of bad lending practices that saddled African Americans and Hispanics two times as much as Whites with high-cost subprime loans—we've passed legislation providing some mortgage debt tax relief, cracking down on predatory lending, and expanding affordable loan opportunities.

As Americans endure the hardships of a sputtering economy, it is incumbent upon the

people's Government to get us through it and steer us back to the path of prosperity. We have been responsive—and so shall we remain—to the needs of those communities most harshly hit in times of economic calamity, and as a unified people, looking after our own, we will get through this stronger and far more prosperous.

TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, atop a hill on Woodley Road in northwest Washington, DC is a 26-room mansion known as the Twin Oaks estate, which served as the official residence of nine ambassadors from the Republic of China between 1937 and 1978. During its heyday, the Twin Oaks estate welcomed to its 17.6-acre compound countless American dignitaries and friends in the local Chinese community, to meet with ROC ambassadors and representatives and chart a course of friendship and cooperation between our two nations. Among the more prominent guests to visit the estate were U.S. Secretaries of State, Senators and Congressmen and U.S. military leaders including General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General George Marshall. Distinguished visitors from Taiwan to the estate included Madame Chiang Kai-shek and the future Republic of China Presidents: Mr. Chiang Ching-kuo, Mr. Lee Teng-hui and Mr. Chen Shui-bian.

The Twin Oaks estate also played a role in the termination of official ties between the United States and the Republic of China, Taiwan, in the winter of 1978. During those uncertain days and weeks, ownership of the Twin Oaks estate was transferred to an American private organization; later returning to the ownership of the Taiwan government in 1982. Since then, the Twin Oaks estate has again become a popular spot in Washington, DC, hosting many social functions each year, at which Washingtonians continue to admire the estate's gorgeous peony gardens, its Georgian Revival architecture, and its priceless Ch'ing dynasty antiques.

The Twin Oaks estate was built in 1888 by the family of Mr. Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society. In celebrating this historic site's 120 year history we also celebrate the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which protects the Republic of China's legal ownership of the estate. May the Twin Oaks estate remain a symbol of United States-Taiwan friendship in our Nation's Capital for the next 120 years.

HONORING PASTOR HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege for me to celebrate the success of Pastor Howard-John Wesley. Pastor Wesley has accomplished a

great deal in his 10 years at St. John's Congregational Church. Increasing the membership from 40 to over 3,000 is a very impressive feat. It may be his impressive sermons that continue to bring people from all walks of life to this church. Or perhaps it is his willingness and ability to help people who need his guidance. Either way, he consistently gathers thousands of people every week to celebrate together and follow in God's path.

Pastor Wesley has brought Baptist influences to one of the oldest African American churches in the State, which tended to be very traditional and affluent. This uneasy path certainly came with a great deal of opposition. Nevertheless, he continued to encourage all citizens of the community to join his congregation as he stressed the need to closely follow the teachings of the bible.

While thousands gather at St. John's to hear Pastor Wesley, he has also brought his powerful influence and God's word into the community. He is on several boards in Springfield and has established several ministries within the church to deal with specific needs in education, youth, and the elderly. He welcomes many students from local colleges who consistently attend his services. He also influenced former residents of the York Street and Ludlow jail systems to become “Ministers In Training”. These accomplishments truly highlight his desire to give back and help those throughout the community.

I would like to close by thanking you for allowing me to speak on this wonderful occasion. I am so grateful to be able to honor this tremendous man, who has given almost 20 years proclaiming God's word. His service to the church and the community has not gone unnoticed. Although today marks the end of his time here in Springfield, he will continue to touch others through his eloquent sermons and teachings at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. Congratulations, good luck, and thank you for all you have done for this community.

A TRIBUTE TO ANGELINA LEVY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Angelina Levy of Temple City, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Levy as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Angelina Levy began her career in fashion when she graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 1954. After 20 years of experience in the New York fashion industry, she moved her family to California but was unable to find programs that catered to her son's special developmental needs. In response to the void, Angie established the School of Fashion and Design for the Developmentally Disabled in 1984 and embarked on a remarkable legacy of community service and leadership.

Angie's School of Fashion and Design for the Developmentally Disabled works to provide students with tools to become self-sufficient and to boost self-esteem. It proves that

the skills necessary for sewing and crafts can also be used to improve the learning and the concentration skills of those who are developmentally disabled. In addition to sewing, dressmaking, and tailoring, the groundbreaking facility provides daily instruction via their "Healthy Living Skills" program, where students learn about food shopping, cooking, and computing, using the resources of the local community. At any given time there are over 40 students who range from young adults to seniors, and each emerges with enhanced social skills needed to integrate in today's complicated world.

In addition to her work with the School of Fashion and Design for the Developmentally Disabled, Angie is a past president of the United Commercial Travelers of America, the East Los Angeles Regional Center, and Civitan International. She has volunteered with the Special Olympics and the San Gabriel Civic Theater Group, as well as served on the Presidential Task Force on the Employment of Adults with Disabilities, PTFEAD, and its related U.S. Congressional Advisory Board. Angie is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars Distinguished Service Award and the 2004 Soroptimist International Woman of the Year. It is little wonder that Angie's peers are proud to call her a "marvel."

Angie's selfless service to the Temple City community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Angelina Levy.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
HILAND HIGH SCHOOL FOR
THEIR SUPPORT OF THE HILAND
HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS' BASKET-
BALL TEAM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Hiland High School has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and

Whereas, the Hiland High School has been supportive of their athletes; and

Whereas, the Hiland High School has broadened the abilities and skills of their athletes in the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, the Hiland High School has always promoted sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Hiland High School on supporting their girls' basketball team in winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous amount of support they have given to their athletes.

EXPRESSING THE BENEFIT OF
EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT THE
NEGATIVE HISTORY AND IMPACT
OF THE N-WORD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support and recognition of the efforts made by Council Member Leroy Comrie, with cosponsors Abolish The N-Word Project Inc. and the Universal Circus, to organize the second annual Black History Month Essay Contest, which essay theme was: "Why The N-Word Should Never Be Used?"

In New York City, freedom of speech is granted depending on which word you use, but do not dare let the "n-word" slip to your comrades. The "n-word" has been around for nearly as long as language itself. According to Merriam-Webster, the origin comes from the "neger" modification, and the French "nègre," and the Spanish "negro." However, within the English language, the n-word was used to depict blacks during the slave trade. Blacks subsequently embraced a more palatable form, "negro." This with the end of slavery and imposition of the Jim Crow was altered as a sign of disrespect and contempt. Today, some "mainstream" hip-hop recording artists slide the n-word into their albums. And when they clamor their way up the Billboard pop charts everyone listens, including the New York City Council.

The abolish the N-Word Project Inc. has many worldwide supporters, with a mailing list of 27,000 people and 13 million hits on their Web site. Some critics state that focusing on a word will not solve the multitude of problems that exist within the black community. I support the council member's initiative; after all it has developed critical thinking wither and conversation about the use of the word is appropriate.

The initiative of the council member's n-word essay contest educated young people about the negative history and impact of the n-word. Educating our society and making us conscious is important, because we need to begin to work with our children to have them understand the history and cultural meaning of a word that should only be used with such understanding.

RECOGNIZING THE OAKTON HIGH
SCHOOL UPON ITS 40-YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Oakton High School as it prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Oakton High School was the first high school established in the Providence District of Fairfax County. Originally founded in 1911, the school was located above the Sutton Store in Oakton, Virginia. In 1914, it relocated to a two-story building on Chain Bridge and Blake Lane, recognized today as "Old Oakton High

School." Oakton initially taught 1- and 2-year courses, but by 1922 it had become a 4-year state accredited institution. Since then, Oakton High School has committed itself to lofty standards of academic and extracurricular excellence. The school provided the first indoor basketball court in all of Fairfax County, and in 1935 it graduated 235 students, a great academic accomplishment for the time period. As the Oakton area began to change from a rural community to a suburb of Washington, D.C., the growth in population required the construction of larger facilities. In 1967, Oakton High School was relocated to its current site on Sutton Road.

Today, Oakton High School remains a distinguished and greatly lauded school in all aspects from sports to the arts to academics. In past years, U.S. News and World Report and Newsweek magazines have ranked Oakton High school one of the top 100 schools in the Nation. This year, Governor Kaine recognized Oakton High School with the 2008 Governor's Award of Excellence. Additionally, the school has won multiple State championships in men's and women's lacrosse, cross country, baseball, football, golf, and gymnastics. In the arts, the Virginia High School League has honored the band program multiple years in a row, and Oakton's One Act Play won the State championship in 1992.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Oakton High School faculty and staff for the immeasurable contributions that they have made to the community by shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. I congratulate the high school on its successes over the last 40 years and I wish it more successful years in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding and distinguished institution.

HONORING TERRY C. WICKS, CRNA,
MHS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMER-
ICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE
ANESTHETISTS

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to Terry Wicks, CRNA, MHS, of Rutherford College, North Carolina, in my congressional district. Mr. Wicks, my constituent, recently completed his 2006-2007 term as the national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).

Having celebrated its 76th Anniversary, the AANA is a professional organization that represents more than 36,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) nationwide.

Originally from the state of Iowa, Mr. Wicks received his education in the art and science of Nurse Anesthesia while serving as an officer in the United States Army. His anesthesia training took him to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for the first phase of his education, and then to Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. In addition, Mr. Wicks also holds a Master of Health Sciences (MHS) degree from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas. Previously serving

as Director of the Anesthesia Department at Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, NC, before taking over as National President of the AANA. Mr. Wicks continues his work as a Staff Anesthetist helping provide anesthesia services to residents of the Unifour, a geographic area encompassing Burke, Catawba, Alexander, and Caldwell counties in the western foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, whose population has grown to over 350,000 people.

Mr. Wicks has held numerous leadership positions in the AANA as Regional Director, Vice-President, and President-elect before becoming the National President of the AANA in 2006. In addition, he has served terms as President, President-Elect, and Vice-President, for the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NCANA).

Adding to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Wicks has been recognized for speaking on anesthesia-related topics over the years. He has taken his experience and knowledge from the workplace and AANA leadership roles to lecture on political and academic anesthesia-related topics before different professional groups.

Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing my constituent, the outgoing President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Mr. Terry Wicks, CRNA, MHS, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
GREGG VAN VOLKINBURG FOR
WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION II
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Gregg Van Volkinburg showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Gregg Van Volkinburg was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Gregg Van Volkinburg always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Gregg Van Volkinburg on winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

A TRIBUTE TO VALARIE GOMEZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Valarie Gomez of San Gabriel, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to

highlight Ms. Gomez as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Valarie Gomez was born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley and attended both Marymount College in Rancho Palos Verdes and Loyola Marymount University. There she tackled the formidable combination of double majors in English and Business Administration, as well as double minors in Philosophy and Religious Studies. She and her husband Carlos have three children, including two daughters and one son.

Valarie and Carlos first immersed themselves in the local community by opening Bob's Old Fashioned Freeze in 1983. Children and adults alike would flock to the establishment for the ice cream, the sandwiches, and the friendly owners who helped neighborhood children learn the value of hard work and of a supportive mentor. It was at that time that Valarie learned the importance of showing youth their true potential. Her sweet-toothed patrons have since become responsible community leaders and still keep in touch.

After owning and operating the family business for several years, Valarie turned her attention to community outreach. She rose to Executive Director of Children's Ministries at San Gabriel Union Church and Christian School, founded its After-School Day Care program, served as the Executive Director of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, and led the Gabrielino High School Career Partners program. Valarie is also the 2-time past President and current member of the San Gabriel Rotary, is a volunteer for various Kiwanis and Asian Youth Center events, and is a member of the San Gabriel Coordinating Council and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The 25-year San Gabriel resident recently became the CEO of the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA after only 17 months with the organization. She showed an enterprising attitude from the start and approached challenges with optimism and energy, leading to a doubling in profit compared to the previous year, newly rebuilt community relations, and the largest Service Club department in the nation. It is no wonder, then, that Valarie's generosity, approachability, and efficiency are so highly respected in the San Gabriel community.

Armed with a passion to "make memories that last a lifetime," Valarie is dedicated to empowering others to succeed. Her selfless service to the San Gabriel community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Valarie Gomez.

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
FOR HARRIET ROSS TUBMAN**

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Congress Resolution 310. Resolution 310 proposes a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman, a fearless champion for civil rights.

Harriet Ross Tubman was a pioneer to say the least. For the better part of a decade, Tubman made over 13 trips South to escort more than 300 hundred slaves to freedom. With no regard to her own well being, she sacrificed her own safety, so that countless other slaves could have the opportunity to realize and experience freedom, a right supposedly enshrined in our Constitution. Tubman was not merely a woman of steadfast conviction, principle and determination, but a hero and savior to those people who often had no hope. I am deeply humbled and inspired by her courage and bravery in the face of remarkable adversity.

Harriet Tubman was a woman of unyielding principle, unparalleled courage and sheer grit. Therefore, I stand here today advocating House Congress Resolution 310 supporting the creation of a national day of remembrance for Harriet Tubman, a woman that inspires us all to stand and fight for freedom.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
CHILlicothe HIGH SCHOOL FOR
THEIR SUPPORT OF THE CHIL-
LICOTHE HIGH SCHOOL'S BOYS'
BASKETBALL TEAM**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Chillicothe High School has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and

Whereas, the Chillicothe High School has been supportive of their athletes; and

Whereas, the Chillicothe High School has broadened the abilities and skills of their athletes in the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, the Chillicothe High School has always promoted sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Chillicothe High School on supporting their boys' basketball team in winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous amount of support they have given to their athletes.

**RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MR.
ROBERT ZERKLE**

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career and extensive community involvement of Mr. Robert Zerkle of Mascoutah, Illinois.

Bob served in the Mascoutah School District for 38 years, as a math teacher, business manager and assistant superintendent, before retiring in 2001.

Even after his retirement from the Mascoutah School District, Bob has continued to be a staunch advocate of Impact Aid, the Federal program which provides assistance to

local school districts that have been impacted by the presence of Federal property, such as the impact Scott Air Force Base has had on the Mascoutah School District in the congressional district I represent. He has received several awards commending his efforts, including the 2008 Friends of the National Association of Federally Impact Schools Award and the Globe Award recognizing his career working on behalf of Impact Aid.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative for Scott Air Force Base, I have witnessed first hand how important the Impact Aid program is to our region and our students. Not only does it provide school districts such as Mascoutah with essential funding otherwise unavailable, it assures the men and women of our fighting forces that their children will receive a great education while they are keeping America safe and secure.

The tireless efforts of individuals like Bob Zerkle are an example of how one individual's dedication to a cause can have a lifetime effect on a community. Bob's wealth of experience and overwhelming devotion will no doubt be missed among his colleagues and his students.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Bob Zerkle for his years of dedicated service in support of Impact Aid and the students of the Mascoutah School District. I wish Bob the very best in the future.

HONORING THE CITY OF PETALUMA ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with particular pleasure today to honor the sesquicentennial of my hometown of Petaluma, California, which has not only a special place in my heart, but a unique place in history over the past 150 years.

My political career began in Petaluma when I was elected to the city council. I raised my four children in this picturesque town with its lovely rural surroundings, and now they are raising their children here. It is a warm and friendly place to call home, and despite its growing population, people still walk down the streets and smile and wave and greet each other by first name.

Petaluma's recent history evolved from its position at the head of a tidal estuary. This location made it a natural shipping center for moving goods from fertile Sonoma County down to San Francisco in the years before the Golden Gate Bridge was built. Consequently, it prospered through the 19th century. But what put Petaluma on the map and made it famous in the early 20th century was the 1875 invention of the chick incubator by local farmers, Isaac Dias and Lyman Byce.

According to local historian and former newspaper editor Katie Watts, the incubator and Petaluma's mild climate made it a natural spot for raising chickens. On the advice of a public relations whiz, Bert Kerrigan, town leaders capitalized on this speciality, dubbing Petaluma "The World's Egg Basket."

What's more, in 1918, Kerrigan prevailed on Congress to create a National Egg Day, August 13, 1918, with Petaluma as the epicenter.

Everything became related to eggs—instead of receiving the keys to the city, esteemed visitors were inaugurated into the Order of the Cluck Clucks and given a bouquet, not of flowers, but of dressed chickens. The town colors were even yellow and white. And while parades in other cities featured floats carrying a contingent of young ladies in prom dresses, in Petaluma, they wore chicken costumes and handed out eggs.

The scheme worked and Petaluma became the wealthiest city of its size in the country.

"Civic pride was enormous," Watts says. "Showplace homes were built, many of which are still standing."

The egg business slowly faded in the 1930s and 40s, and after waterway shipping was replaced by truck transport, Petaluma drifted into a sleepy decline. Watts explains that "Attempts to modernize in the 1950s and 60s were mostly short-circuited by the fact the city determined not to tear down fine old buildings and replace them with parking lots and corrugated plastic."

Although chickens gave way to the cows and sheep that now dot the green hills around the city, Petaluma remains connected to its rural heritage by supporting a growing farmstead cheese industry.

But Petaluma is also firmly in the 21st century. Having been at the heart of Telecom Valley during the dotcom boom, it attracted tech and bio-tech companies, with many continuing to move here, drawn by the fertile business climate.

Petaluma's civic pride extends to the care of its citizens—there is a model homeless shelter and a noted housing program for the economically disadvantaged. Current environmental policies reflect the city's pioneering work in the first slow-growth ordinances in the U.S. Protecting the environment remains a priority for Petalumans. For example, in 1983, students from Petaluma's Casa Grande High School founded United Anglers with the mission of bringing Adobe Creek back to life. Since then, they have raised more than half a million dollars and built a state-of-the-art fish hatchery, the only one nationwide on a high school campus. Their program has served as a worldwide model for ecology and watershed reclamation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of Petaluma, and I ask that you join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments of the past 150 years and wishing them the best for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCES A. MOORE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Frances A. Moore of Alhambra, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Moore as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

A review of Frances' personal and professional activities reveals a life-long commitment to community involvement. Raised in Monterey Park, Frances is a native of the San Gabriel Valley. She is a product of our public schools

and local colleges, earning degrees from East Los Angeles College, California State University at Los Angeles, and the University of Redlands. Frances has devoted her forty-five year professional career to the City Clerk's Office of the great City of Alhambra and has served as its beloved City Clerk since 1986.

As Alhambra's City Clerk, Frances is well-respected among her peers for her remarkable efficiency, her unparalleled depth of knowledge, and her professional dedication. By streamlining the city's legislative and record management procedures, she saved valuable time and public funding. Frances is also a member of several professional organizations such as the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the City Clerks' Association of California, the City Clerks' Association of Southern California, and the Los Angeles Paralegal Federation.

In addition to her responsibilities as the City Clerk, Frances established the self-sustaining Public Arts Gallery in the lobby of Alhambra City Hall. The gallery promotes local artists' work by providing a forum for creative recognition, distribution, and sales. A commission on each artwork sold helps cover the gallery's operating expenses without reliance on public funds. For her efforts, Frances earned the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence from the League of California Cities.

Frances' star shines brightly among local, regional, and national philanthropic realms as well. A member of Rotary International since 1992, she has served as its Assistant Governor and as the President of the Alhambra Rotary Club. She is also a former member and past President of Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Marino, and San Gabriel. Frances is a dedicated supporter of the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA and chaired the YMCA Capital Fund Campaign. She is a lifetime member of both the Alhambra Historical Society and the Alhambra Day Nursery Auxiliary.

With no professional or charitable stone left unturned, Frances' selfless dedication to the Alhambra community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Frances A. Moore.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS IN RECOGNIZING AND HONORING EARL LLOYD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support of the resolution recognizing and honoring Earl Lloyd for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association fifty eight years ago.

Earl Lloyd was born in Alexandria, Virginia on April 3, 1928. With a height of 6 ft 5 in and 225 lbs. Lloyd first developed his passion for basketball in the city of Alexandria's segregated Parker-Gray High School, where he started on the school team. He went on to play basketball at West Virginia College and then was drafted to play for the NBA in 1950.

On October 31, 1950, he became the first African-American to play in a NBA game, against the Rochester Royals. Lloyd played five hundred and sixty NBA games and won a championship before retiring in 1960. In the midst of his career he proudly put his professional career on hold and served in the Army for two years before returning to the game. In 2003 he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and in his home town, Alexandria, a basketball court at T.C. Williams was named in his honor.

Earl Lloyd played for the love of the sport of basketball and not to make history, but his entry into the NBA meant a lot during segregation.

I am proud to honor Earl Lloyd for his career achievements as the first. He opened the doors for several famous basketball players, such as Michael Jordan, Scotty Pippen, Charles Barkley, etc. He truly blazed new trails for African-American athletes who today grace the professional game in significant numbers, constituting the great majority of the best players in the NBA.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH GARY KELLOUGH FOR
COACHING THE CHILLICOTHE
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET-
BALL TEAM TO WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BAS-
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Gary Kellough showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Gary Kellough was a leader and mentor for the Chillicothe High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Kellough has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Gary Kellough for leading the Chillicothe High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

COMMENDING H-E-B

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend H-E-B, one of the largest grocery store markets in Texas and in my congressional district, for embarking upon a remarkable energy initiative to power their stores using wind power by signing onto Windtricity, a renewable energy option provided by CPS Energy. Windtricity allows H-E-B to utilize electricity generated by wind turbines in West Texas. This new endeavor by one of Texas'

leading corporate citizens demonstrates the commitment of H-E-B to building sustainable communities and leading others in environmental initiatives in communities across Texas.

Wind energy is the world's fastest growing energy source and is also one of the oldest forms of renewable energy. Wind turbines are an increasingly popular method of generating electricity with very little environmental impact. Many wind farms are built in geographical areas conducive to prevailing winds such as in the Panhandle and western parts of Texas.

I applaud H-E-B for joining in this remarkable partnership with Windtricity that shows a great commitment to safeguarding the environment for future generations of Texans in our communities. I thank you for this time.

A TRIBUTE TO DORIS LAU

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Doris Lau of Monterey Park, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly, it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Lau as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Doris Lau's remarkable journey began when her parents left China and settled in Chile. Born in Iquique, the capital of the country's northernmost region, Doris worked in the fields alongside her family as a small child. Through hard work, dedication, and sacrifice the family built a neighborhood bakery and grocery store business; however, they eventually fled to the United States due to political unrest. In Los Angeles they began once again to rebuild their lives. Doris's supplemental income from working in garment district factories helped to purchase their first home in Monterey Park.

Doris progressed from sewing four buttons per penny to attending Los Angeles City College. She then went on to major in Business Administration and Law at Cal State Los Angeles and advanced from clerical to paralegal positions at various law firms.

Inspired by her personal history, Doris has become an integral member of the Monterey Park volunteer community since moving there in 1985. She supports intercultural exchange in her role as a Trustee of the city's Bruggemeyer Library, the Secretary for the city's Commission for Art & Culture, and as the chair of the local Artisan Fairs. Her other leadership positions include serving as a Board Member, Southern Regional Representative, and Membership Chair of the California Association of Library Trustees & Commissioners (CALTAC) and as the VP, Legislative Coordinator, and Membership Chair of the National Treasury Employee Union (NTEU) for her local, Chapter 103.

Doris's fluency in both Chinese and Spanish embodies the cultural diversity of Southern California and of our Nation's proud history. Her outreach is similarly inclusive: she is a Board Member of the Committee for Special Emphasis Programs, which includes national heritage awareness months, and she volunteers for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

In the past, Doris has led several organizations in which she remains an active member, including serving as President and Lieutenant Governor of Los Angeles Monterey Park Optimist, President of the Monterey Park Homeowners and Renters Association, Treasurer and Secretary of the Eastside Democratic Club, and President and Treasurer of Santa in York Hill, an annual community holiday event for low-income families.

Ever since she arrived on U.S. soil, Doris has devoted her time and energy beyond her own needs; she works for the benefit of the surrounding community as a whole. Her selfless service is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Doris Lau.

**EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE
NEED TO IMPROVE THE GLOBAL
SITUATION OF WOMEN**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the editorial, "Women's Month, A Time to Reflect" which appeared in this week's edition of the New York Carib News.

The editorial, in recognition of March being international women's month, discusses the current situation of women in the United States, Canada, Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The standing of women in the global community has drastically improved, but is sadly far from the lofty goals outlined by the United Nations Millennium Goals. Today, women have achieved new highs, as women now outnumber men in those who pursue tertiary education. Similarly, women continue to outlive their male counterparts and a record number of women are pursuing leadership roles in politics. Yet, the struggle is far from over as women still remain largely underrepresented in politics and leadership roles in religious institutions. Women still comprise the largest community affected by domestic violence, human trafficking and poverty.

As a result of the continued disparity in equality among men and women, I urge Americans to remain informed on the situation by reading the editorial "Women's Month, A Time to Reflect" in CaribNews. In the 21st century, it is simply unacceptable for women to not be afforded the same opportunities as their male counterparts.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH NAPOLEON CROSS FOR
COACHING THE CHILLICOTHE
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET-
BALL TEAM TO WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BAS-
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Napoleon Cross showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Napoleon Cross was a leader and mentor for the Chillicothe High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Cross has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Napoleon Cross for leading the Chillicothe High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

A TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE M.
PELLEY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Catherine M. Pelley of Glendale, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Pelley as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

As a past nurse and Captain in the U.S. Army, Cathy is a veteran who served her country during the Vietnam War as a psychiatric nurse working with the brave men and women returning home from combat. She is currently the President and CEO of Glendale Memorial Hospital and the Chair of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Board. Cathy also serves on the Board of Directors for Glendale's Armenian Bone Marrow Bank, Salvation Army, and regional Brothers of Saint John of God Healthcare and Retirement Centers.

Under her leadership, Glendale Memorial Hospital's infrastructure has expanded to include additional imaging equipment, several new community clinics, and modern communications systems. These easily-accessible, digital patient records will prevent medication errors and reduce transcription times, as well as maintain up-to-date information for future reference.

With vision that reaches beyond hospital walls, Cathy believes wholeheartedly in the future of the Glendale community. Her efforts to overcome South Glendale's economic challenges were partnered with remarkable honesty, dignity, understanding, and determination. By highlighting common ground between conflicting groups, she gave victims a more effective voice in their healthcare and rallied community support behind the revitalization of a blighted area. Ever since, business has returned with new retail, dining, theatre, and housing options. Cathy has also improved the area by expanding the "Brand Boulevard of Cars" and by implementing solutions to severe traffic congestion.

Though she faced an aging medical facility, dwindling local business, and a community in conflict, Cathy never backed down from the obstacles before her. She chose instead to

provide leadership where it was needed, to invest in the health—both corporeal and economic—of the City of Glendale. In return, the area has transformed itself over four short years to become a beacon of civic progress. It exists as an example of how one person's optimistic vision can infuse a diverse community with the hope and the means to achieve excellence as one.

With steadfast dedication, Cathy's selfless service to the Glendale community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Catherine M. Pelley.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CESAR
ESTRADA CHAVEZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I join with the hundreds of thousands of Mexican residents of my congressional district and across our Nation in recognizing the everlasting accomplishments and contributions of Cesar E. Chavez, a social crusader who lived a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication for the betterment of others.

Cesar Estrada Chavez, World War II veteran and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, as the late New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy once noted, was "one of the heroic figures of our time." A true American hero, Cesar was a civil rights, Latino, farmworker, and labor leader; a religious and spiritual figure; a community servant and social entrepreneur; a crusader for nonviolent social change; an environmentalist and consumer advocate.

A second-generation Mexican-American, Cesar was born on March 31, 1927, near his family's farm in Yuma, Arizona. At age 10, his family became migrant farmworkers after losing their farm in the Great Depression. Throughout his youth and into his adulthood, Cesar migrated across the Southwest laboring in the fields and vineyards, where he was exposed to the hardships and injustices of farmworker life.

After achieving only an eighth-grade education, Cesar left school to work in the fields full time to support his family. Although his formal education ended then, he possessed an insatiable intellectual curiosity, and was self-taught in many fields and well read throughout his life.

From 1946 to 1948, Cesar served in the U.S. Navy and fought in the Western Pacific during the tail end of World War II. Upon his return from the war, he embarked on new beginnings that would set the tone of his life. He married Ms. Helen Fabela and shortly after in 1952 began working as a community organizer with the Community Service Organization, CSO, a prominent Latino civil rights group.

CSO afforded him the opportunity to learn how to organize groups for a common cause. Cesar coordinated voter registration drives and conducted campaigns against racial and economic discrimination, primarily in urban

areas. In the late 1950s, he ascended to the position of national director.

Cesar's dream, however, was to create an organization to protect and serve farmworkers, whose poverty and disenfranchisement he had shared. In 1962, Cesar resigned from the CSO and founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers of America.

For more than three decades, Cesar led the first successful farmworkers union in American history, achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions, as well as countless other rights and protections for hundreds of thousands of farmworkers.

Against previously insurmountable odds, he led successful strikes and boycotts that resulted in the first industry-wide labor contracts in the history of American agriculture. His union's efforts brought about the passage of the groundbreaking 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act to protect farmworkers. Today, it remains the only law in the Nation that protects the farmworkers' right to unionize.

The significance and impact of Cesar's life transcends any one cause or struggle. He was a unique and humble leader, in addition to being a great humanitarian and communicator who influenced and inspired millions of Americans to seek social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised in our society. Cesar forged a diverse and extraordinary national coalition of students, middle class consumers, trade unionists, religious groups, and minorities.

Sadly, Cesar Chavez passed away in his sleep on April 23, 1993. He was laid to rest in a rose garden at the foot of a hill he often climbed to watch the sun rise. More than 50,000 people attended his funeral services in the small town of Delano, California.

Cesar Chavez—a common man with an uncommon vision for humankind—stood for equality, justice, and dignity for all Americans. His motto, "si se puede," yes we can, embodies the uncommon and invaluable legacy he left for the world's benefit. His ecumenical principles remain relevant and inspiring today for all Americans.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH DAVE HAMMOND FOR
COACHING THE CHILLICOTHE
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL
TEAM TO WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Dave Hammond showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Dave Hammond was a leader and mentor for the Chillicothe High School boys' basketball team; and

Whereas, Coach Hammond has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Dave

Hammond for leading the Chillicothe High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

A TRIBUTE TO JAYLENE L.
MOSELEY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jaylene L. Moseley of Pasadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Moseley as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Jaylene has focused her professional and philanthropic energies in northwest Pasadena and Altadena for over 30 years. She founded and leads the J.L. Moseley Company, a firm that develops and manages sustainable commercial real estate projects in northwest Pasadena and Altadena. She also serves as president of Flintridge Operating Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides direct services to build the strength, effectiveness, and long-term viability of community-based organizations in northwest Pasadena and Altadena.

Her company's commitment is to develop community while developing real estate. This is accomplished by developing sustainable commercial projects that are sensitive to the neighborhoods in which they are situated; involving neighbors—including youth—in every phase of development; leasing commercial space to tenants who agree to participate in community revitalization by hiring or by providing services to local residents; meticulously maintaining the properties; ensuring that each of the 14 buildings the company manages contributes to neighborhood efforts annually; and participating in community dialogue and actions to strengthen neighborhoods. Reflecting the company's commitment to sustainability, J.L. Moseley Company developed the first Gold LEED-Certified building in Pasadena in 2006, and Jaylene donated her services and managed the development of Mothers' Club's Gold LEED-Certified building in 2007.

Jaylene is deeply committed to the education of the community's youth. She worked with community leaders to launch the after-school program "Mustangs on the Move," which tutors high school students, works with youth on special projects, and hires students to work for her company. With the goal of inspiring students to expand their future horizons, she contributed \$250,000 in profit from one of the company's developments to "Mustangs on the Move" to provide opportunities for PUSD students to participate in summer programs on college campuses. In addition, Jaylene personally contributes hundreds of hours each year to local nonprofit organizations, neighborhood groups, and community-based businesses.

J.L. Moseley Company has received 14 awards for its real estate developments, and Jaylene has received 23 awards from commu-

nity groups for her professional and personal contributions to the community. She lives every day by her personal mantra, that "in all [her] endeavors, [she] is committed to economic and social justice."

Jaylene's selfless service to the Pasadena community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Jaylene L. Moseley.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
SHARED INTEREST IN THE DE-
VELOPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise the work of Shared Interest for their continued encouragement and investment in black-owned businesses in South Africa.

Shared Interest is a New York-based international social investment fund that has worked tirelessly since 1994 to mobilize U.S. investors to provide the necessary capital to foster the development of black-owned organizations, small businesses and agricultural co-operatives in South Africa. Undoubtedly, the work of Shared Interest has provided many struggling black South African people with the funds required to create a successful business. Shared Interest took its \$11 million guaranteed fund and was able to successfully leverage credit of more than \$100 million. Shared Interest has gone beyond simply providing capital to small black businesses in need. The investment fund has taken on a philanthropic role in the community by honoring the work of fellow business men and women in South Africa. Shared Interest has recognized many people including the Honorable Albie Sachs, Debra Lee, Jerry Dunfey and Nadine Hack for their contributions both business and philanthropic in nature to building a better South Africa.

As a result of their continued initiatives to promote increased business and human rights standards, I hope that many more Americans will recognize the tireless efforts of Shared Interest and the need for further investment in minority owned and operated business within South Africa.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING STUART BEVERLY FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Stuart Beverly showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Stuart Beverly was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Stuart Beverly always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Stuart Beverly on winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

A TRIBUTE TO ELAINE PAONESSA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Elaine Paonessa of Burbank, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly, it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Paonessa as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and raised in San Diego, Elaine briefly attended San Diego State College before leaving to tour nationally with an all-girl orchestra as a trumpet player and a professional singer. Her musical background would return one day in her outreach efforts.

Before she emerged as one of the Burbank community's brightest stars, Elaine relocated to Burbank with her husband, Bill, in 1952. There they raised their daughter, Gay, and their son, Guy, and were together until Bill's passing in 2006. It was during her 15 years as a homemaker that Elaine first amassed an impressive roster of volunteer commitments.

As she worked with the Boy Scouts, led the Emblem Club of Burbank as president, chaired the city's Women's Council, founded the local Performing Arts Federation, and supported St. Joseph's Medical Center, Elaine established the blueprint of a truly devoted citizen. When she returned to work in 1967, Elaine blazed professional trails as the first female sales representative for the Automobile Club of Southern California. Never one to shy from community involvement, she served on the Burbank Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the Salvation Army advisory board.

Today Elaine has not slowed a bit. She continues to lead and volunteer with several community organizations, including the Burbank Farmer's Market and the Burbank Civitan Club, to name just a few. Elaine revisits her roots as a traveling performer as the Musical Director of the Van Bloem Singers, a group that visits and performs at senior residences and healthcare facilities. For her incredible breadth of service, Elaine has been recognized by Los Angeles County Commission on Aging and has been honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

With no charitable stone left unturned, Elaine's selfless and awe-inspiring dedication to the Burbank community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Elaine Paonessa.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2591–S2618

Measures Introduced: One bill was introduced, as follows: S. 2822. **Page S2612**

Measures Considered:

New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act and the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2591–S2606, S2607–10**
Adopted:

By 76 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 91), Voinovich Modified Amendment No. 4406 (to Amendment No. 4387), to protect families most vulnerable to foreclosure due to a sudden loss of income by extending the depreciation incentive to loss companies that have accumulated alternative minimum tax and research and development tax credits. **Pages S2591, S2592–93, S2610**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding adoption of Voinovich Modified Amendment No. 4406, that the amendment be further modified. **Page S2610**

Landrieu Further Modified Amendment No. 4389 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow use of amended income tax returns to take into account receipt of certain hurricane-related casualty loss grants by disallowing previously taken casualty loss deductions, and to waive the deadline on the construction of GO Zone property which is eligible for bonus depreciation. **Pages S2591–92, S2593–94**

Pending:

Dodd/Shelby Amendment No. 4387, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2591**

Sanders Amendment No. 4401 (to Amendment No. 4387), to establish a national consumer credit usury rate. **Page S2592**

Cardin/Ensign Amendment No. 4421 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of a principal residence by a first-time homebuyer. **Page S2592**

Ensign Amendment No. 4419 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the limited continuation of clean energy production incentives and incentives to improve energy efficiency in order to prevent a downturn in these sectors that would result from a lapse in the tax law. **Pages S2595–96, S2601–02**

Alexander Amendment No. 4429 (to Amendment No. 4419), to provide a longer extension of the renewable energy production tax credit and to encourage all emerging renewable sources of electricity. **Pages S2596–98**

Nelson (FL)/Coleman Amendment No. 4423 (to Amendment No. 4387), to provide for the penalty-free use of retirement funds to provide foreclosure recovery relief for individuals with mortgages on their principal residences. **Pages S2598–S2601**

Lincoln Amendment No. 4382 (to Amendment No. 4387), to provide an incentive to employers to offer group legal plans that provide a benefit for real estate and foreclosure review. **Pages S2602–03**

Lincoln (for Snowe) Amendment No. 4433 (to Amendment No. 4387), to modify the increase in volume cap for housing bonds in 2008. **Page S2603**

Landrieu Amendment No. 4404 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the provisions relating to qualified mortgage bonds to include relief for persons in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. **Pages S2603–05**

Sanders Amendment No. 4384 (to Amendment No. 4387), to provide an increase in specially adapted housing benefits for disabled veterans. **Pages S2605–06**

During consideration of this measure today, the Senate also took the following action:

By 74 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. 92), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion

to waive section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, with respect to Landrieu Further Modified Amendment No. 4389 (to Amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow use of amended income tax returns to take into account receipt of certain hurricane-related casualty loss grants by disallowing previously taken casualty loss deductions, and to waive the deadline on the construction of GO Zone property which is eligible for bonus depreciation. The point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, was not sustained.

Page S2594

A motion was entered to close further debate on Dodd/Shelby Amendment No. 4387 (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Friday, April 4, 2008, a vote on cloture will occur at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

Page S2606

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

Page S2606

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, April 7, 2008, and that Senators have until 3 p.m., on Monday, April 7, 2008, to file first-degree amendments.

Page S2617

Consolidated Natural Resources Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2739, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, to

implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003.

Page S2607

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

Page S2607

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn.

Page S2607

Messages from the House:

Page S2612

Measures Referred:

Page S2612

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S2612–13

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S2613–14

Additional Statements:

Pages S2611–12

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S2614–17

Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

Page S2617

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—92)

Pages S2593, S2594

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:40 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2618.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 1 public bill, H.R. 5713; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 322 and H. Res. 1081, were introduced.

Page H2016

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H2016

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2176, to provide for and approve the settlement of certain land claims of the Bay Mills Indian Community, adversely (H. Rept. 110–541, Pt. 2);

H.R. 4115, to provide for and approve the settlement of certain land claims of the Sault Ste. Marie

Tribe of Chippewa Indians, adversely (H. Rept. 110–542, Pt. 2); and

H.R. 1328, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–564, Pt. 1).

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Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative McGovern to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

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Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, President, St. Luke Institute, Silver Spring, Maryland.

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Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Joint Meetings

EMPLOYMENT

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the employment situation for March 2008, after receiving testimony from Keith Hall, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 7 through April 12, 2008

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3221, New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act.

On *Tuesday*, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 3221, New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security and Consumer Protection Act, and at 2:15 p.m. Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Dodd/Shelby Amendment No. 4387. Also, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2739, Consolidated National Resources Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: April 8, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD-192.

April 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

April 9, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the De-

partment of State and foreign operations, 10 a.m., SD-138.

April 9, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine cyber warfare programs, 10:30 a.m., S-407, Capitol.

April 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Army, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

April 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-192.

April 10, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Housing Administration's role in addressing the housing crisis, 10 a.m., SD-138.

April 10, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 2 p.m., SD-124.

April 10, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the Crandall Canyon mine accident, 2 p.m., SD-138.

April 10, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the status of efforts to improve mine safety and health, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: April 8, to hold hearings to examine the situation in Iraq and progress made by the Government of Iraq in meeting benchmarks and achieving reconciliation, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

April 8, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 on Navy force structure requirements and programs to meet those requirements, and the future years defense program, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

April 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the situation in Iraq, focusing on progress made by the Government of Iraq in meeting benchmarks and achieving reconciliation, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

April 9, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 on Air Force and Navy aviation programs, and the future years defense program, 2 p.m., SR-222.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the situation in Iraq, focusing on the progress made by the Government in Iraq meeting benchmarks and achieving reconciliation, the future U.S. military presence in Iraq, and the situation in Afghanistan, 2 p.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: April 10, to hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on proposals to mitigate foreclosures and restore liquidity to the mortgage markets, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 8, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Trade Commission reauthorization, 10 a.m., SR-253.

April 8, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the digital television transition, focusing on consumers, broadcasters, and converter boxes, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

April 9, Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine coal gasification technologies, focusing on the need for large scale projects, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

April 10, Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine aviation safety oversight, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: April 8, to hold hearings to examine S. 2259 and H.R. 813, bills to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project, H.R. 31, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Wildomar Service Area Recycled Water Distribution Facilities and Alberhill Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility Projects, H.R. 716, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Santa Rosa Urban Water Reuse Plan, H.R. 786, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project, H.R. 1140, to authorize the Secretary, in cooperation with the City of San Juan Capistrano, California, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of an advanced water treatment plant facility and recycled water system, H.R. 1503, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Avra Black Wash Reclamation and Riparian Restoration Project, H.R. 1725, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Rancho California Water District Southern Riverside County Recycled Non-Potable Distribution Facilities and Demineralization Desalination Recycled Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility Project, H.R. 1737, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters in the area of Oxnard, California, and H.R. 2614, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in certain water projects in California, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

April 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 1633, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefield and related sites of the Battle of Shepherdstown in Shepherdstown,

West Virginia, as part of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park or Antietam National Battlefield, S. 1993 and H.R. 2197, bills to modify the boundary of the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in the State of Ohio, S. 2207, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Green McAdoo School in Clinton, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, S. 2254, to establish the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area in the State of Mississippi, S. 2262, to authorize the Preserve America Program and Save America's Treasures Program, S. 2329 and H.R. 2627, bills to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site, S. 2502 and H.R. 3332, bills to provide for the establishment of a memorial within Kalaupapa National Historical Park located on the island of Molokai, in the State of Hawaii, to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866 to 1969, S. 2512, to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area in the State of Mississippi, and H.R. 3998, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources studies of certain lands and structures to determine the appropriate means for preservation, use, and management of the resources associated with such lands and structures, 2:30 p.m. SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: April 9, to hold hearings to examine S. 1870, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-406.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David R. Hill, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 9 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: April 8, to hold hearings to examine S. 970, to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, 10 a.m., SD-215.

April 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine covering uninsured children, focusing on the provisions and regulations in the current Children's Healthcare Insurance Program (CHIP) directive, 2:30 p.m., SD-215.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine identity theft, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 8, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Barbara McConnell Barrett, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Yousif Boutrous Ghafari, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, Frank Charles Urbancic, Jr., of Indiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Nancy E. McEldowney, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, and Kurt Douglas Volker, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

April 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Iraq after the surge, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

April 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia M. Haslach, of Oregon, for

the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Senior Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, Scot A. Marciel, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Affairs, D. Kathleen Stephens, of Montana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, and William E. Todd, to be Ambassador to the State of Brunei Darussalam, all of the Department of State, 3:15 p.m., SD-419.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine negotiating a long-term relationship with Iraq, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: April 10, to hold hearings to examine climate change, focusing on a challenge for public health, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 10, business meeting to consider pending legislation, and the nomination of Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-342.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew Saul, of New York, Alejandro Modesto Sanchez, of Florida, and Gordon James Whiting, of New York, all to be Members of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, 2 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: April 8, Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine the adequacy of representation in capital cases, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: April 9, to hold an oversight hearing to examine making the Department of Veterans Affairs the workplace of choice for health care providers, 9:30 a.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 8, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House Chamber

To be announced.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, April 9, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, on Marketing and Regulatory Programs, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, on USTR, 9:30 a.m., on ITA 11 a.m., and on Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

April 9, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on Federal Communications Commission, 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Smithsonian Institution, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on U.S. Capitol Police Budget, 1 p.m., H-144 Capitol.

April 9, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, on Army Budget, 2 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

April 10, Subcommittee Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, on Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, on NOAA, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn, and on EEOC, 3 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

April 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, on Department of Energy—Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Waste, 9 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on Small Business Administration, 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Secretary of DHS, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Government Accountability Office, 1 p.m., H-144 Capitol.

April 10, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, on European Command, 1:30 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

April 10, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, on U.S. Policy and Program in Iraq, 11 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn, and on U.S. Treasury International Assistance Programs and U.S. Contributions to International Financial Institutions, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services: April 9, hearing on the status of the war and political developments in Iraq, 9 a.m., and on the current status of U.S. ground forces, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 10, hearing on Contingency Contracting: Implementing a Call for Urgent Reform, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces, hearing on Army acquisition programs, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, April 9, to mark up H.R. 5522, Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Workplace Protections, hearing on the 15th Anniversary of the Family Medical Leave Act: Achievements and Next Steps, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 10, hearing entitled "Strengths and Weaknesses of Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Using Existing Clean Air Act Authorities," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, April 9 and 10, hearings entitled "Using FHA for Housing Stabilization and Homeownership Retention", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 8, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, hearing on Central Asia: An Overview, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

April 9, full Committee, hearing on Report on Iraq, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, hearing on War Power for the 21st Century: The Constitutional Perspective, 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing and briefing on the Crisis in the Andes: The Border Dispute Between Columbia and Ecuador, and Implications for the Region, 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, April 9, Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, hearing entitled "Moving Beyond the First Five Years: Ensuring FEMA's Ability to Respond and Recover in the Wake of a National Catastrophe," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

April 9, Subcommittee on Management, Investigations, and Oversight, hearing entitled "Moving Beyond the First Five Years: Solving the Department of Homeland Security's Management Challenges", 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, April 9, hearing on the 2008 Presidential Primaries and Caucuses: "What we've learned so far," 11:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 8, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on S. 2135, Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2007, 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on the Reauthorization and Improvement of DNA Initiatives of the Justice For All Act of 2004, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, April 9, hearing on the following: H.R. 5608, Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments Act, H.R. 3522, To ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, H.R. 3490, Tuolumme Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2007, S. 2457, to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe, and a measure to amend certain laws relating to Native Americans to make certain adjustments, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 10, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 5541, Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act; and H.R. 5648, Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 9, to consider the following bills: H.R. 5687, To amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency and accountability of Federal advisory committees; H.R. 5683, Government Accountability Act of 2008; H.R. 4791, Federal Agency Data Protection Act; H.R. 752, Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act of 2007; H.R. 1734, To designate the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon, as the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office;" H. Res. 1073, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to

the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 5 through 11, 2008; and H. Res. 1026, Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 9, full Committee, and the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives, joint hearing on 2010 Census, Progress on the Development of the Field Data Collection Automation (FDCA) Program and the Decennial Response Integration System (DRIS), 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement, hearing on Federal Security: ID Cards and Background Checks, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, hearing on Investigation into the Sale of Sensitive, In-Demand Military Equipment and Supplies on the Internet, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, April 8, to consider the following: H.R. 2016, National Landscape Conservation System Act; and H.R. 2537, Beach Protection Act of 2007, 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, April 9, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled "The Impact of Increasing Gas Prices on Small Businesses," 10 a.m., 1539 Rayburn.

April 10, full Committee, hearing entitled "Modernizing the Tax Code: Updating the Internal Revenue Code To Help Small Businesses Stimulate the Economy," 10 a.m., 1539 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 9, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on Aviation Delays and Consumer Issues, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing on Transportation Challenges of Metropolitan Areas, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on Cosco Busan and Marine Casualty Investigation, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans Affairs, April 9, hearing on Ending Homelessness for Our Nation's Veterans, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

April 10, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on Veterans Disability Benefits Claims Modernization Act of 2008, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 10, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, hearing on extending unemployment insurance, 10 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, April 9, hearing on Assessing the Fight Against al-Qaeda, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

April 10, executive, briefing on Colombia, 8:30 a.m., and, executive, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget—Cyber Initiative, 10 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, April 9, hearing entitled "Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Global Warming and Public Health," 10 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: April 10, to hold hearings to examine the Organization for Se-

curity and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), focusing on the displacement of Iraqi citizens in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and other surrounding countries in the region, 2:30 p.m., 1100 Longworth Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, April 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3221, New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 8

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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